



Samoa Victim Support Group

NEWSLETTER

April 2025– June 2025

‘20 Years of Partnerships in Saving Lives’



Prepared by;
SVSG Communications Unit

From the President

Talofa and warm greetings to the SVSG Growing Family,

This three-month term was very special as we celebrated SVSG's 20th anniversary since its humble and challenging beginning in 2005. The journey has never been easy, but the seed of love and care we planted for vulnerable children and families in Samoa has grown into a blessing for all. From April to June, SVSG continued to serve the community through its regular programs, while also celebrating twenty years of strong partnerships with our many supporters.

Looking back, SVSG started small, driven by the kindness and compassion of countless individuals, organizations, the Samoan government, communities, and development partners. Many of those who once walked alongside us have now passed on, but their generosity of time, resources, and support laid the foundation for what SVSG has become today, a strong non-governmental organization providing safe refuge and hope for vulnerable children, women and Persons with disabilities (PWDs) in Samoa.

In the lead-up to the main celebration events in June, partners, both local and overseas, visited and made generous donations to support our work. The school competitions and the Nofotane Women's Market in May were part of the three-month celebration, giving us all a chance to reflect on the partnerships and friendships that have grown with SVSG over the past twenty years.

As SVSG celebrated in June with its Human Rights Celebration Forum and Official Celebration Ball, hundreds of partners and supporters, both local and overseas, gathered at these two events to meaningfully participate and applaud 20 years of partnership with SVSG in saving lives in Samoa.

E le uma le loto fa'afetai ma le fa'amalō i uo ma pa'aga uma sa galulue ma fesoasoani mai i le galuega lavea'i a le To'omaga mo ē Puapuagatia, amata mai ile 2005 seia oo mai ile 2025. Mai le Aiga To'omaga, 'Fa'afetai, fa'afetai, fa'afetai tele lava.'

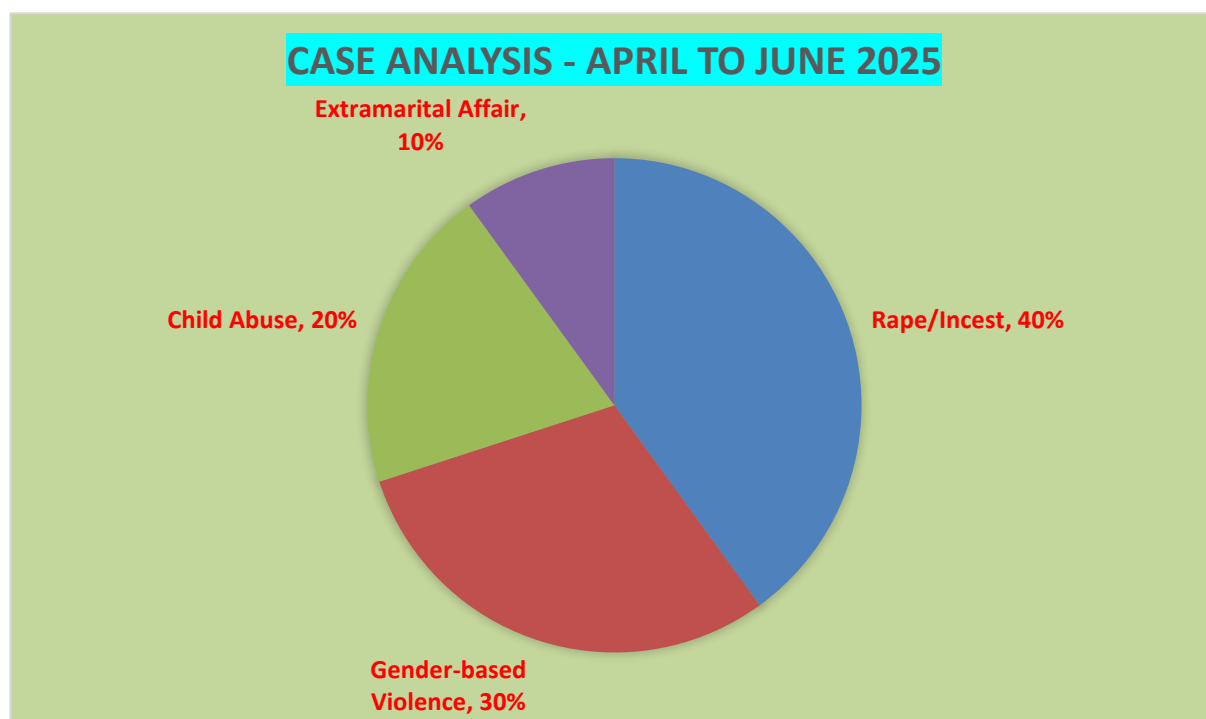
Our mission must continue. The stories and memories of the victims we have helped will always inspire SVSG and our partners to move forward with love and dedication.

Blessed 20 Years of Service to SVSG and our Partners.

Ia Vi'ia pea le suafa o le Atua.

PRESIDENT: Siliniu. Lina. Chang

SVSG Case Management Report Analysis from April to June 2025.

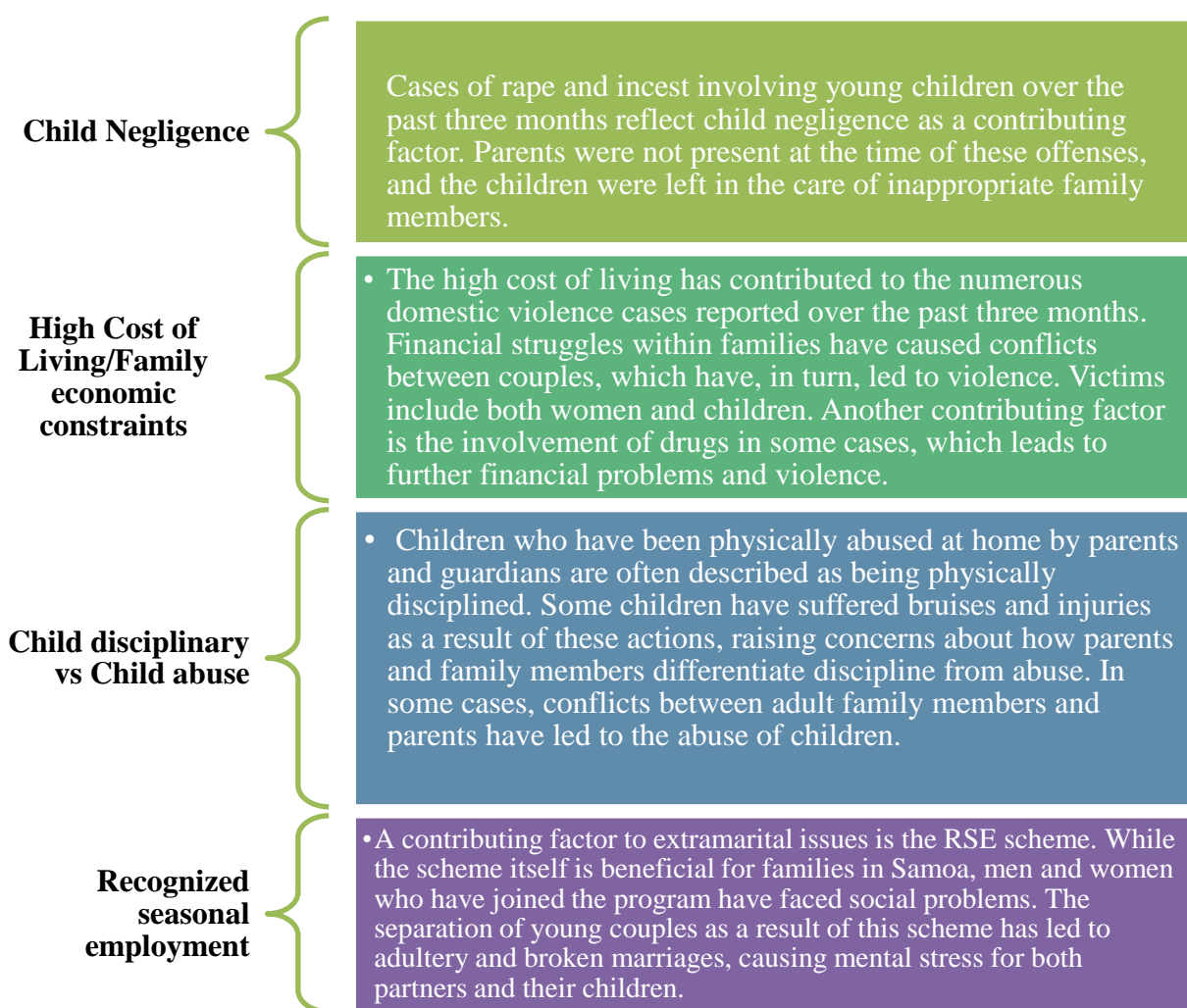


Case Analysis over the past three months (April to June) has revealed varying trends in reported cases. The accompanying chart highlights a concerning rise in incest and rape cases involving children, primarily affecting female victims aged 4 to 15. These cases have been referred to the police and court for legal proceedings. Children who could not safely return home have been provided shelter at the SVSG Campus of Hope under interim protection orders (IPOs) issued by the court.

Gender-based violence (GBV) cases, affecting both women and men, have continued to be prevalent during this period. SVSG has responded to these cases through a range of services, including advocacy, counselling, psychosocial support, and referrals to the police, depending on the nature and severity of each case.

Child physical abuse accounted for 20% of cases reported to SVSG during this term. Additionally, cases involving extramarital affairs among young married individuals have continued to be observed as an ongoing social issue over the past three months.

Contributing Factors & SVSG Human Rights Watch.



SVSG Human Rights Watch:

In 2025, and especially during the three months from April to June, SVSG has witnessed an increase in child rights violations. The rising rates of rape and incest involving children not only breach relevant domestic laws but, more importantly, constitute serious violations of child rights as articulated in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). Article 34 of the CRC requires states parties to protect children from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.

Article 19 further outlines that every child has the right to proper care and protection from violence, abuse, and neglect.

Unfortunately, these rights have not been adequately protected by parents, family members, and guardians. As a state party to the Convention, the Samoan government is obligated to safeguard these children's rights. Child negligence and physical abuse have undermined children's rights to be nurtured and cared for in a safe environment. Parents and families are increasingly focused on earning money and attending to other matters, often at the expense of prioritizing their children's care.

Furthermore, the rights of women and of all individuals are being violated, particularly as social issues continue to affect family environments and contribute to the prevalence and consequences of violence. The increase of drug abuse as one contributing factor to the many cases of violence in SVSG is a serious threat to Samoa and the people's rights to safety, especially the vulnerable population of children, women and persons with disabilities.

SVSG 24/7 FREE Helpline Service

With cases that came through the Free Helpline, 40% of the calls were seeking online counselling and advisory enquiries to SVSG.



Persons with Disability

Within the past three months, some of the cases received through online calls involved persons with disabilities. These vulnerable individuals reached out to request an opportunity to live and be cared for within the SVSG campus. Some have also expressed concerns about the inadequate care they are receiving at home.



Marital Issues

Online cases were reported through the Free Helpline service, many of which involved marital disputes. These cases also contributed to incidents of violence against women and children.

Some women called seeking help on how to address and resolve family problems, particularly marital conflicts between couples



Female Callers

Most of the Helpline callers are female and are aged 25 and over. More than 50% of these women are mothers seeking online advice on how to care for their children and looking for help with their own challenges. Their problems include spouses leaving young mothers with their children, which can cause trauma when these mothers are unable to earn an income and care for their young children at the same time.

APRIL 2025 Highlights

The month of April was a time of reflection on the vibrant partnerships SVSG has cultivated over its twenty years of existence. The organization's unwavering dedication to saving the lives of the most vulnerable has been evident through the generous support of individuals, businesses, and development partners throughout April. These collaborations have extended beyond local boundaries, reaching regional and international platforms. This broad engagement not only highlights the humble service provided by SVSG but also celebrates the meaningful partnerships that have been built over the past two decades.

PARTNERSHIPS & DONATIONS

Australian High Commission Partners with SVSG in Developing Local Communities.

The rural villages of Siumu, Malaemalu, and Luatuanuu received direct support from the Australian High Commissioner to Samoa in April this year. This generous assistance included street lights, solar lights, sewing machines, and elei design materials, all aimed at enhancing community wellbeing and resilience.

SVSG village representatives expressed their sincere gratitude to the Australian High Commissioner to Samoa, H.E. Will Robinson, and acknowledged the valuable partnership with SVSG. The provision of these much-needed resources has supported village families and communities, particularly during this month's power outages.



World Book Day 2025 themed; 'Read Your Way from the Campus of Hope.'

Reading is fundamental to a child's development: it cultivates critical thinking, nurtures creativity, and fosters empathy. In celebration of World Book Day on April 23, 2025, UNESCO, in partnership with SVSG, donated books and reading materials to the children at the Campus of

Hope. The UNESCO staff in Apia also kindly volunteered their time to conduct one-on-one reading sessions with the children.

The children thoroughly enjoyed the reading experience and felt the care and support from the UNESCO colleagues who assisted them in their learning journey.



Tetaua Moana Navy New Zealand at the Campus of Hope

SVSG was grateful to receive generous donations of furniture from the Tetaua Moana Navy of New Zealand for the Campus of Hope this April. The visit was led by the New Zealand High Commissioner to Samoa, H.E. Sialei Van Tour, and Navy Commander Andrew Brown.

During their visit, the New Zealand representatives expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to contribute to a cause that continues to make a meaningful impact in Samoa.

SVSG also expressed heartfelt thanks for the love and support shown by their UNESCO partners.



Men Advocacy Program Continues in April.

Another group of men referred from the Court in April continue to participate in counselling and anger management courses. These are typically first-time offenders. SVSG, in collaboration with the Police and Judiciary, supports this at-risk group through advocacy and counselling services.

These services aim to reduce violence and abuse within families by empowering and assisting men and husbands to safeguard their families from harm and social challenges.



SVSG Youth Empowered through Peer-to-Peer Training

In April, SVSG youth members participated in a peer-to-peer training aimed at equipping them to share important messages with fellow youth and young people. The training focused on helping youths support one another through one-on-one counselling and providing assistance to those in need, with the goal of preventing potential involvement in crime.

Dr. Jenevieve Manell, a long-standing SVSG partner from Australia, facilitated the training and provided SVSG juniors with valuable strategies for effectively engaging with other youth members.



SVSG Youth Joined Mangroves Cleaning Project.

In April, SVSG youth joined the Samoa National Youth Council (SNYC) for the Youth Mangrove Site Clean-Up project at the Moata'a Mangroves. The project aims to empower youth to take the lead in mitigating climate risks in Samoa and to advocate for mangrove conservation.

Through their participation and hands-on experience in cleaning the mangrove sites, the youth developed a greater interest in becoming climate change advocates for their communities and families.



SVSG In Partnership with Vodafone Samoa Launched the SVSG 20th Anniversary Press Conference.

In April, the official Press Conference of the celebration of the 20th Anniversary of SVSG was launched at Vodafone Samoa. Vodafone Samoa is a good partner of SVSG with its ongoing support in providing SVSG Free Helpline service. Vodafone CEO, Mr. Rana Bose expressed their ongoing commitment in supporting SVSG and its good cause in Samoa. Surprisingly, Mr. Bose also presented their nomination of SVSG to the 2026 Noble Peace Prize. SVSG Board madam chair, Maposua Tanya Toailoa and Board Member Afioga Lagaaia Fetuliai Lagaaia shared heartfelt remarks on this day.



Celebrating Easter in April with Coin Save and DMC Staff at the Campus of Hope

This Easter, the children at the Campus of Hope were treated to a special Sunday To'ana'i, thanks to the generosity of Mr. Tu'itu'ioaiga, a devoted supporter and kind donor and his hardworking staff. The children enjoyed their favorite DMC dishes, pizza, and Dad's steak pies. It was truly a delightful treat for everyone.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Mr. Tu'itu'ioaiga and his dedicated team for their ongoing generosity. We pray for continued blessings, long life, health, and prosperity for you and your family. Happy Easter to all!



Ronderlyn Petelo and Launceston Iosefa donated Easter Treat
for the children at the Campus of Hope.



SVSG Nofotane Samoa Quality Standards Workshop

In April, quality standards were developed and discussed with Nofotane women as part of the Nofotane Samoa Social Enterprise (NSSE) Project by SVSG, funded by the European Union (EU). These quality standards ensure that the products and hand-crafted goods made by Nofotane women meet high standards of excellence. Nofotane women under SVSG are well equipped trained with developed measures and capacity building initiatives to support them with their growth in business sector.



Imagine Science Show with UNESCO at the Campus of Hope.

In a vibrant celebration of science, imagination, and healing, UNESCO partnered with Imagine Science Samoa, a local science initiative, to bring a week of wonder to the children at the SVSG Campus of Hope. This special collaboration, launched as part of the Imaginary Science program, aimed to introduce the children to the magic of science through interactive, engaging, and nature-inspired activities.

From creating simple chemical reactions to exploring the world around them, the children learned through hands-on experiments and creative play. Laughter and curiosity filled the air as the children eagerly participated, asked questions, and discovered the joy of science in everyday life. It was heart-warming to see their faces light up with excitement, a true testament to the power of learning as both fun and healing.

This initiative was more than just a learning experience it was a celebration. It marked SVSG's 20th anniversary in June with a meaningful and lasting gift from UNESCO. We are deeply grateful to UNESCO for this incredible partnership, which brought so much joy and inspiration to the Campus of Hope. Your continued support makes a real difference in the lives of our children, helping them dream bigger and believe in a brighter future.



SVSG Nofotane Samoa Women Opened Laulii Lockable Market

SVSG Nofotane Lockable market was officially opened at the heart of Luatuanu‘u village. Through the Luatuanu‘u Nofotane Samoa Social Enterprise Project, village representatives are proudly showcasing the fruits of their hard work from fresh local harvests to beautifully handcrafted puletasi, Samoan sarongs, and traditional handicrafts.

These women are not only preserving our cultural heritage, but also building sustainable livelihoods for themselves and their families. Every purchase supports a dream, a family, a future.

Fa’afetai tele to everyone who continues to support the Nofotane journey!

Visit them in Luatuanu‘u and experience the beauty of local craftsmanship.



New Zealand School Visited Campus of Hope on Palm Sunday in April.

Te Kura o Patiki School, all the way from New Zealand, brought gifts and hearts full of love for the children at the Campus of Hope on Palm Sunday in April. Around 40 students and young people, accompanied by their guardians and teachers, visited the Campus, presented their gifts, and shared their love with friends at the SVSG shelter. For them, it was a Palm Sunday well spent a rare and meaningful opportunity to connect with the children at the Campus of Hope. The day also offered a chance to reflect on the sacrifice Jesus made on the cross, as celebrated throughout Holy Week, and to honor the group’s own sacrifice of precious time to bring comfort and love to children who need it most. Their kindness is a beautiful reminder of God’s grace flowing freely, especially during Holy Week, as we walk together in faith, compassion, and hope.



Our Local Communities Donated Food in April for our Campus of Hope.

The Campus of Hope was honored to welcome a heartfelt visit from the Catholic Church of Siumu & Safata, led by Fr. Losi, as part of their Lenten charity work. As the Church prepared to enter Holy Week on Palm Sunday, this visit proved to be both emotional and eye-opening for parishioners, who witnessed first-hand the resilience of children in shelter, many of whom are survivors of abuse within their own families. The delegation included members from all Safata villages: Siumu, Lotofaga, Vailoa, Fausaga, Saanapu, Sataoa, Vaie'e, Gagaifo o le Vao, Tafitoala, and Matafaa. The visit concluded with a special performance by the children of the Campus, expressing their gratitude for the love and support shown by our visitors.

Fa'afetai tele lava to Fr. Losi and the Catholic communities of Siumu & Safata for choosing to walk this Lenten journey with the most vulnerable, bringing light, prayers, and compassion to our Campus of Hope.



Chinese Ambassador Visited the Campus of Hope

H.E. Mr. Ryotaro Suzuki, Ambassador of Japan, visited and witnessed firsthand the Campus of Hope. He was welcomed by SVSG President Siliniu Lina Chang. Mr. Suzuki emphasized the importance of addressing the problems faced by victims, most of whom are girls and young children. The visit also provided an opportunity for the Ambassador to experience the Campus of Hope in preparation for Japan's planned assistance to the SVSG shelter. This partnership is not new; Japanese aid has supported SVSG for years in the development and construction of shelters. The April visit is a testament to the longstanding partnership between SVSG and the Government of Japan.



SVSG Nofotane Expanded Life-Skill Training to Salailua Savaii.

Salailua village has become the first community on the island of Savai'i to receive Nofotane life skills training, empowering 38 women and 20 men with the tools to support their families through entrepreneurship. This milestone marks the launch of SVSG's economic empowerment program across Savai'i, with the next training session scheduled for Salelavalu village tomorrow.

We are inspired by the resilience and determination shown by the women of Salailua, and we are deeply grateful to our dedicated trainers for their commitment.

Fa'afetai tele lava to the European Union your ongoing support continues to make these life-changing opportunities possible for our Nofotane women.



Partnership Meeting between SVSG and UNESCO.

Samoa Victim Support Group (SVSG) had the honour of meeting with Mrs. Shamil Nair-Bedouell, Director and UNESCO Representative to the Pacific, along with regional leads Susan Schneegans (Natural Science), Mary Anne Therese Manuson (Education), and Sara de Ugarte (Culture).

During the meeting, we discussed initiatives to highlight the importance of inclusive education, lifelong learning, STEM education, and the role of arts and culture in storytelling and advocacy for victims of violence and gender-based violence.

SVSG's grassroots work to protect the vulnerable, empower survivors, and restore hope closely aligns with UNESCO's mission to build peace through education, science, and culture. Together, we explored collaborative pathways to:

- Strengthen education for vulnerable groups
- Promote cultural resilience and traditional knowledge
- Support mental health and community healing
- Encourage youth empowerment and leadership



SVSG was Represented in the Pacific Technical Cooperation Session of the CEDAW Committee & CSO Action Planning Session Fiji.

The SVSG Communications Manager represented SVSG at the historic CEDAW session in Fiji in April 2025. This marked the first time the CEDAW Committee, which is usually based in Geneva, traveled to the Pacific region to conduct its reporting procedures for the three reporting island states of Fiji, Tuvalu, and the Solomon Islands. Samoa was represented by delegates from the Government MWCSD CEO and CSOs, who attended to learn from the procedures and better prepare for Samoa's upcoming CEDAW reporting. SVSG was also present to gain insight and prepare for its shadow submission in 2026.



SVSG and Life-line International Online Partnership Meeting.

Thilini Perera, CEO of Lifeline International, highlighted the life-saving work of the Samoa Victim Support Group (SVSG) through its Free Helpline service. SVSG's free 24/7 helpline is more than just a number it's a vital lifeline that has supported thousands of people in times of crisis. This essential service ensures that no one in our community is ever alone, and it's made possible thanks to the generous support of Vodafone Samoa (Together We Can) and Digicel (Better Together), who enable free calls to the helpline. Fa'afetai tele lava for standing with our communities and making this crucial access possible. SVSG Youth join the conversation and their voices are driving change, and their contributions were invaluable as we discussed the Youth Development Framework, an important step in shaping and empowering our young people.



Faleapuna Nofotane Women in their Life-Skill Training

Empowering women to strengthen their families' economic wellbeing is a powerful step toward building safer communities and homes free from violence. SVSG recently delivered life skills training to 50 women in Faleapuna village, focusing on basic entrepreneurial skills. Encouraged by positive feedback and the ongoing need, SVSG is committed to expanding this training to empower more Nofotane women with practical skills to support their families' livelihoods. We extend our heartfelt thanks to our dedicated trainers for their continued support of women in our

communities. A special thank you to the European Union for making this training opportunity a reality.



MAY 2025 Highlights

Leading up to the official events in June for SVSG's 20th anniversary celebration, the month of May proved to be one of the busiest and most blessed months yet. Generous donations and renewed connections from both old and new SVSG partners took place, strengthening our community.

May was also a time to recognize community efforts, especially by inviting young people and children to participate in the festivities through SVSG competitions in poster design and impromptu speeches.

Mother's Day 2025 was a special highlight for Nofotane women, marked by their successful 2 day -Open market in front of the Government Building. The event showcased their creativity and talents, while also providing an opportunity to earn income for their families.

We gratefully acknowledge the ongoing support of the European Union (EU), whose funding for the SVSG Nofotane project continues to empower women to become social entrepreneurs, supporting their families and communities.

PFL Donates \$10,000 for SVSG's 20th Anniversary

As we celebrate 20 years of service, SVSG is grateful to have the ongoing support of long-term partners like Pacific Forum Line (PFL). For nearly a decade, PFL has stood beside us, contributing not only financial resources but also encouragement and belief in our mission.

This year, in honour of the SVSG 20th Anniversary, PFL has generously donated \$10,000 to SVSG. This significant contribution will help us continue to protect, empower, and uplift the most vulnerable members of our community. The support from PFL enables us to expand our programs, reach more people in need, and create a well-supported environment for the children and those who are under the SVSG care in the Campus of Hope.

We are deeply appreciative of PFL’s commitment to social responsibility and their recognition of the importance of our work. Partnerships like this make it possible for SVSG to provide a lifeline for those facing crisis, advocate for the rights of women and children, and foster safer, stronger communities.

Fa’afetai tele lava, Pacific Forum Line, for your trust and generosity. Your support not only celebrates our past achievements but also fuels our vision for the future. As we mark this milestone, we look forward to many more years of partnership and progress, together making a difference in the lives of those who need it most.



VSA Partners with SVSG

Strengthening Partnerships | SVSG is delighted to welcome representatives from Volunteer Service Abroad (VSA) next week, including senior leaders from their Wellington head office. During their country visit, the VSA team will meet with us to gain a deeper understanding of Samoa’s development landscape, the needs of local partners, and the progress of in-country volunteers. This visit represents a valuable opportunity to further strengthen our

collaboration and impact. We are also pleased to announce the appointment of Lily Belabun, who will soon join SVSG through VSA. Fa’afetai tele lava to VSA for renewing our partnership together, we continue Connecting People Transforming Lives.



Digicel Pacific Regional CEO Bids Farewell to SVSG.

In May, Shally Jannif, Pacific Regional CEO of Digicel, bid farewell to SVSG with a generous donation of \$3,000 tala in support of the Campus of Hope. This farewell gift marks the conclusion of her tenure as CEO, during which she has been a strong supporter of SVSG. At the same time, she introduced her successor, Karl Vizvary, the new CEO of Digicel Samoa.

SVSG looks forward to continuing its strong partnership with Digicel Samoa, not only as a principal sponsor of the SVSG Free Helpline service (available 24/7), but also through ongoing visits and donations to the Campus of Hope.

The SVSG President, staff, and children at the shelter bid a heartfelt farewell to Shally, expressing deep gratitude for her leadership and support, and warmly welcomed Mr. Vizvary as the new CEO



Australian Federal Police Support Campus of Hope.

SVSG extends its sincere thanks to the Australian Federal Police (AFP) for their generous donation to the children of the Campus of Hope. The AFP provided thoughtfully prepared care packages containing clothing and pencil cases, ensuring our children not only receive essential items but also feel valued, supported, and encouraged.



The partnership between SVSG and the Australian Federal Police demonstrates the incredible impact that can be achieved when organizations unite for a common cause.

The ongoing support from the AFP strengthens the Campus of Hope community and reassures the children that they are not alone, but surrounded by caring individuals both near and far.

Fa'afetai tele lava to the Australian Federal Police for your kindness, generosity, and dedication to making a positive difference in the lives of our children. Your support is a true blessing to the Campus of Hope and a shining example of international goodwill and partnership.

Together, we continue to nurture hope, resilience, and opportunity for all those we serve.

PacificEzy Money Transfer Donates \$10,000 to SVSG for 20th Anniversary

As the Samoa Victim Support Group (SVSG) marks 20 years of dedicated service to the most vulnerable in our community, we are honored to receive a generous \$10,000 donation from PacificEzy Money Transfer. This contribution is not only a valued sponsorship but also a powerful demonstration of PacificEzy's commitment to supporting positive change in Samoa.

Their support helps ensure that SVSG can continue its mission to protect, empower, and uplift those most in need. It also reflects a shared vision for a safer, more compassionate Samoa where every individual is valued and supported.



Swire Shipping Co. Visits the Campus of Hope.

Ms. Tiana Ofoia and the Swire Shipping Co. team visited the Campus of Hope in May. Their visit reflected a genuine interest in learning more about our work and exploring new ways to offer support. Over the past two years, Swire Shipping Co. has played a significant role in expanding our sewing and printing center, creating more opportunities for our residents. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the management and staff of Swire Shipping Co. for their ongoing partnership

and continued commitment to the Campus of Hope.



Samoa Mental Health and Addiction Society (SMHADS)

SVSG was honored to participate as an active member of the Samoa Mental Health and Addiction Society (SMHADS) during its inaugural meeting, which took place at the Ministry of Health headquarters. SMHADS was established and is coordinated by the Samoa Ministry of Health with a clear mandate: to improve access to psychiatric

and mental health services for all people in Samoa, ensuring that mental health is fully integrated into Universal Health Coverage.



The formation of SMHADS marks a significant milestone for mental health advocacy in Samoa. Its mission is to bring together organizations, professionals, and

community leaders committed to addressing the growing mental health and addiction challenges faced by our society. The Society intends to foster collaboration, share best practices, and develop strategies that place mental health on the same level of importance as physical health. By creating this inclusive platform, the Ministry of Health is leading the way in destigmatizing mental illness and ensuring that individuals and families have access to the care and support they need.

Kingdom Makers Australia Donates Food Supplies to Campus of Hope

SVSG is deeply grateful to Kingdom Makers Australia for their generous donation of food supplies to the Campus of Hope. This thoughtful contribution arrives at a vital time, ensuring that the children and families in our care have access to nutritious meals and daily essentials. The support from Kingdom Makers Australia goes beyond providing food; it brings hope and comfort to our residents, showing them that they are valued and not alone.

Partnerships like these are crucial to the ongoing success of the Campus of Hope. Kingdom Makers Australia's commitment to making a difference in our community is truly inspiring. Their generosity helps us continue our mission to protect and uplift vulnerable children and families.

On behalf of the SVSG Board, staff, and children, we extend our heartfelt thanks to Kingdom Makers Australia for their kindness and support. Together, we are building a brighter, more caring future.



Rotary Club Donates 13,000 Tala to SVSG Campus of Hope

SVSG is proud to acknowledge the generous donation of 13,000 Tala from the Rotary Club of Apia, represented by longstanding supporters Ray Deaker and Sandra Isaac. The Rotary Club's continued partnership has made a significant impact on the Campus of Hope, helping to provide essential resources and support for the children under our care. Ray, Sandra, and the Rotary Club of Apia have been steadfast friends of SVSG, and their ongoing commitment continues to uplift and inspire our community. This latest contribution will further enhance our ability to offer a safe, nurturing environment for vulnerable children and families. SVSG President Siliniu Lina Chang acknowledged the longstanding partnership and support of the Rotary Club to the SVSG.



SVSG President Siliniu Lina Chang was recognized by the Samoa Government through their Portraits Project in May.

SVSG acknowledges the Ministry of Women for the “Ia Fa’ae’e Malama” initiative, a meaningful program that honors the invaluable role of mothers in our families and communities.

We are especially proud that among the 30 portraits of Samoan women celebrated, our very own SVSG President, Siliniu Lina Chang known to many as Mama Lina was featured.

Thank you for recognizing her unwavering dedication and lifelong service to our people.



SVSG 20th Anniversary School Poster and Impromptu Speech Competitions in May.



In May, SVSG launched its 20th Anniversary school competitions for primary and secondary students. The poster competition was judged by art experts from the Ministry of Education, representatives from ANZ Bank, and an art expert from the Malua School of Fine Arts. The impromptu speech competition was held at To'oa Salamasina and featured the top ten shortlisted competitors from both education levels. The judges included Afioga Leota Velma Galuvao from Tautua Samoa, Anita from NUS, and Fuimaono Aukuso Ualesi, President of the Samoa Teachers Association. The official prize-giving ceremony was held the following day and SVSG also acknowledges the sponsorship of prizes from its business sector partners.

Impromptu Speech Competition Results:

PRIMARY LEVEL

- 1st - Jacinta Leslie Onesemo
- 2nd- Eddienna Lusia Ripley
- 3rd- Laki Esau

SECONDARY LEVEL

- 1st- Falefatu Emmet Salele
- 2nd- Leroy James Tupuola Frueaen
- 3rd- Pisa Belle Salele

POEM COMPETITION RESULTS:

JUNIOR LEVEL

1st: Iutita. L. Enenliko
2nd: Joshua Samoa
3rd: Vaimaira Agaimalo Filemu

OPEN CATEGORY

1st: Sisavaii Torise T. Matagi
2nd- Lareena. Alama. Fiu
3rd- Shalleen Lelei

POSTER COMPETITION RESULTS:

PRIMARY LEVEL

1st: Senio. Vincent. Peseta
2nd: Mia. Kapisi
3rd: Joseph Peseta

SECONDARY LEVEL

1st: Kendra Uele.
2nd- Claire Poulava
3rd- Faletolu Sitoga

SSAB donated to SVSG in May.

SVSG Samoa extends its sincere gratitude to SSAB Apia Samoa and CEO Mrs. Tofilau Fiti Leung Wai for their generous donation of essential items to support our work with vulnerable individuals and families. Your continued partnership reflects our shared commitment to compassion, service, and community empowerment. Fa'afetai tele lava

for standing with us.



Nofotane Mother's Open Day Market in May 2025.

One of the highlights for the month of May was the Nofotane Open day market for Mother's Day. The open day market was dedicated to the Nofotane women or mothers and the showcase of their creations. More than 50 Nofotane women participated in this 2-day markets, selling their products

and creations to the public in front of Government building at Apia. Nofotane women from the rural villages and their family members travelled with their productions, while the SVSG organized the 2-day events, providing supportive resources and equipment for these Nofotane women.

The Nofotane Open Day Market in May was part of the women's project funded by the European Union (EU), which coincided with this year's celebration of mothers. SVSG continues to support these local Nofotane women, recognizing their work and talents. The celebration of mothers also aligned with the 20th anniversary of SVSG since its inception in 2005, and the valuable services it has provided to its people, especially women and their economic status in communities.



JUNE HIGHLIGHTS

June was a vibrant and celebratory month for SVSG, marking many of its most significant milestones. The open-to-the-public 'Amazing Race' competition added extra excitement and meaning to the festivities, bringing together people of all ages to join in celebrating SVSG's 20th anniversary.

A major highlight was the SVSG 20th Anniversary Human Rights Forum, which united partners from both local and overseas to acknowledge SVSG's years of dedicated service and its victim-centered approach to human rights. The keynote address was delivered by Fiame Naomi Mataaafa, Samoa's former and first female Prime Minister, who spoke about the essence of SVSG's work and its contributions to the government's efforts in maintaining a safer Samoa over the past two decades.

The celebrations culminated with the Official Celebration Ball, where SVSG and its partners reflected on 20 years of impactful collaboration.

SVSG Welcomes Marist College, New Zealand – Malaga Tautua Tour.

SVSG was honored to host a special visit from Marist College New Zealand. Yesterday, the group of nearly 30 students and teachers visited the Campus of Hope, where they spent time with the children and shared words of encouragement.



Their journey continued with a visit to the SVSG main office, as they expressed interest in understanding where all the work begins behind the scenes of SVSG's many programs. One of the highlights of their visit was exploring the Nofotane Gift Shop, where they enthusiastically supported our Nofotane women by purchasing a variety of beautiful handicrafts.

In the spirit of service and love, the group is also planning a beach fun day this Wednesday for the children of the Campus another heartfelt gesture that reflects the true essence of their tautua (service).

Thank you, Marist College NZ, for choosing to walk this journey with us, and for your genuine interest in the lives of our vulnerable families. May your time in Samoa continue to be filled with purpose and connection.



His Highness. Tuimalealiifano. Sualauvi II, the Samoa Head of State Donated food for SVSG in June.

SVSG humbly acknowledges the generous donation from the Head of State of the Independent State of Samoa, His Highness Tuimaleali'ifano Va'aleto'a Sualauvi II, and Masiofo Fa'amausili Leinafo. Their thoughtful contribution to the children at the Campus of Hope is a testament to their compassion and unwavering support for the most vulnerable in our community. On behalf of the children and the entire SVSG family, we express our heartfelt gratitude to Their Highnesses for their kindness and commitment to the wellbeing of our future generations.



Capacity Building Programme in June for CSOs led by SUNGO.

SVSG staff completed the Grants and Proposal Writing Training sessions, conducted throughout June and facilitated by Ms. Janet Dawson, an Australian volunteer with the Australian Volunteers Program, in partnership with the Samoa Umbrella for Non-Governmental Organisations Inc. (SUNGO).

We are proud that two of our staff members participated in this valuable capacity-building opportunity, which strengthens our ability to serve and advocate for vulnerable members of our community.

SVSG acknowledges SUNGO and the Australian Volunteers Program for this impactful training initiative.



Jaden Laing Donated to SVSG Shelter.

Mr. Jaden Laing, recognized as the third strongest man in Australia, made a remarkable donation of \$10,000 to support the children under SVSG's care. Motivated by his love for children and his desire to give back to the community, Jaden's contribution truly reflects the power of compassion and purpose. During his visit, he also extended warm congratulations to SVSG on 20 years of dedicated service to Samoa. Fa'afetai tele lava, Jaden and team, for your generosity and kind words. Your support brings strength and hope to those who need it most. After a heartwarming morning of fun and games, Jaden and his team continued their visit by treating the children at the Campus of Hope to a special McDonald's meal and refreshing ice cream. Earlier, during a volleyball match

with the children, Jaden noticed the limited number of volleyballs and rugby balls. Moved by this, he generously returned with new sports equipment, ensuring the children have more opportunities to play and enjoy themselves. We are deeply grateful for Jaden's thoughtful gestures and the joy he continues to bring to our children.



SVSG Village Representatives Gather for 20th Anniversary Celebration

SVSG Village Representatives (Sui Auai) from across Samoa gathered at the Tooa Salamasina Hall in Sogi for a special meeting to prepare for SVSG's upcoming 20th Anniversary celebration. This important milestone highlights the strength and unity of our village reps, whose unwavering commitment has been the heart of our work for the past two decades.

Our Sui Auai serve as the vital bridge between SVSG and the communities we support. They work tirelessly and voluntarily to assist families in need, protect the vulnerable, and uphold the values of care, compassion, and service. For 20 years, our Sui Auai (village representatives) mechanism is the backbone of the SVSG work in the Samoan society, and on this 20th celebration, SVSG still relied on their capacity and their strength especially their tireless

support. Fa'afetai tele lava to all our village reps for your ongoing dedication. Your role is essential to SVSG's mission, and we are deeply grateful for your service.



SVSG Opened its Official 20th Celebration with a Special 'Faigalotu' with its Partners.

"We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty." (Luke 17:10)

To commence the official celebration events, SVSG and its community family hosted a special 'faigalotu' to launch the activities marking 20 years of service. The Faigalotu was led by church leaders from various denominations across Samoa at the Mulivai Cathedral and was attended by partners, SVSG families, and friends.

It was a moment of humility for SVSG, serving as a reminder of their role as unworthy servants before the Lord. The work they have carried out over the past 20 years is seen as a God-given calling, a mission to serve His people in need of help and support.



SVSG Amazing Race Competition to Celebrate 20th Anniversary.

SVSG's 20th Anniversary was made even more memorable in June with the excitement of the SVSG Amazing Race Competition. Open to teams from a variety of organizations, this lively event brought together participants from across the community, all eager to join in the festivities and celebrate two decades of SVSG's impactful service. The competition took place in Apia town, with teams navigating a series of fun and challenging activities designed to foster teamwork, creativity, and community spirit. SVSG Board members and staff enthusiastically facilitated the event, ensuring a smooth and enjoyable experience for everyone involved. The Amazing Race not only added an element of fun to the anniversary celebrations, but also strengthened connections among organizations and showcased the vibrant spirit of SVSG. It was a fitting tribute to 20 years of dedication, collaboration, and service to the people of Samoa. The results were- 1st Place: Amazing Sisters 2nd Place: Cheehoo Cowboys, 3rd Place: Matamatagi Outrigger Canoe Club



SVSG 20th Anniversary Human Rights Forum – June 2025.

Theme: Celebrating 20 Years of Partnerships in Human Rights works.

SVSG is proud to celebrate 20 years of serving Samoa by promoting, protecting, and supporting the Samoan population's rights, particularly those most marginalized and vulnerable in society. As a human rights advocate at the civil society organization (CSO) level, SVSG has acted as a voice for individuals who have been pushed to the margins and whose rights have been violated for various social reasons throughout Samoa. SVSG as a CSO human rights actor in Samoa, significantly contributed to the national efforts and obligations of our national government to the six human rights conventions in which Samoa is a state party/signatory to.



These are the CRC, CEDAW, CRPD, CERD, CAT, CCPR, and CESR¹. Rather than viewing human rights solely from a universal perspective, the SVSG Human Rights Forum will focus on the experiences of marginalized victims and survivors of human rights violations in Samoa over the past two decades. The forum will be a platform to revisit and revitalize the emphasis on human rights through a bottom-to-top approach. Starting from the SVSG experience of the victims and the human rights violations they have experienced, and has significantly empowered the works of SVSG at the CSO level, and onwards to the national, regional and international level, the universal view of human rights.



¹ CRC-Convention on rights of Children, CEDAW – Convention to eliminate discrimination against women, CRPD – rights of persons with disability, CAT- Against torture and other cruel inhuman/degrading treatment or punishment, CED- rights of ALL persons from enforced disappearance, CESR: convention on economic, social and economic rights.

SVSG Established Partnership with Senese Inclusive Inc on June 2025.

During the SVSG Forum held on Friday, 20th June 2025, a significant milestone was achieved with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Samoa Victim Support Group (SVSG) and Senese Inclusive Education Support Services. This partnership marks a new chapter of collaboration focused on strengthening inclusive support for persons with disabilities, especially those affected by violence and abuse. Through this MOU, both organizations commit to working together in promoting accessibility, protection, and empowerment for some of the most vulnerable members of our society. We look forward to the journey ahead as we join hands in advancing inclusive services and human rights in Samoa.



Church Minister, Rev. Waita Fata Donated to SVSG in June

As part of our 20th Anniversary celebrations, the Samoa Victim Support Group (SVSG) gratefully acknowledges the generous support of Senior Pastor Waita Fata of Victory Power Ministries in Manukau, Auckland. Pastor Fata first reached out to SVSG in 2023 with a donation and has since remained a steadfast supporter of our mission. His ongoing generosity reflects a genuine heart for service and a deep commitment to standing with SVSG in support of the vulnerable. We are truly

blessed to have leaders like Pastor Fata walking alongside us. Fa'afetai tele lava, Pastor Fata, for your unwavering support.



Rotaract Samoa Donated to SVSG.

The Executive Committee of Rotaract Samoa, a youth-led service organization, visited the Campus of Hope, led by their President Ronaldo Pose.

The purpose of the visit was to uplift and encourage the children under SVSG's care, reflecting Rotaract Samoa's strong commitment to youth empowerment and community service.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to these inspiring young leaders for choosing to walk alongside our children with compassion and hope.

Fa'afetai tele lava, Rotaract Samoa



SVSG Official 20th Anniversary Celebration Ball.

On Saturday, 21st June 2025, at the Apia Park Football Complex in Moataa, SVSG hosted its Official Celebration Ball to honor all its partners from the past 20 years. This event marked a historic finale to SVSG's 20th anniversary celebrations, highlighted by the presence of His Highness Lana Afioga Tuimaleali'ifano Sualauvi II, Cabinet ministers and government officials, development partners, and representatives from the business and community sectors. Partners from both Samoa and abroad came together on this special night to share stories of two decades of partnership with SVSG in saving vulnerable lives in Samoa.

Gallery From the 20th Celebration Official Ball.



DONATIONS TO SVSG WITHIN APRIL – JUNE 2025.

Donors	Amount
APRIL 2025	
PETER ONEILL	\$ 730.00
TE KURA OPAKI SCHOOL	\$ 667.13
Matagaluega Katoliko Safata & Siumu	\$ 1,284.40
Rhys Webb	\$ 155.41
Total Amount	\$ 2,836.94
MAY 2025	
ROTARY CLUB OF APIA	\$ 13,000.00
Rhys Webb	\$ 161.67
Total Amount	\$ 13,161.67
JUNE 2025	
JADEN LANG	\$ 10,100.00
DIGICEL	\$ 3,000.00
ANONYMOUS	\$ 1,500.00
ONERANI KINDERGARTEN	\$ 180.00
Rhys Webb	\$ 162.00
Total Amount	\$ 14,942.00

Special Speech of 20 Years Celebration by President Siliniu Lina Chang (Presented on the Night of the Official Celebration Ball)

“Talofa lava and good evening, everyone,

Tonight, as I stand before you, I am overwhelmed with emotion and deep gratitude. It is a rare and humbling privilege to be part of a milestone like these twenty years of SVSG serving our beloved Samoa.

Twenty years ago, a small group of people came together with one powerful idea to be a refuge for the vulnerable, a voice for the voiceless, and a shield for those without one. What began as a spark of compassion has grown into a movement of courage, advocacy, and healing.

SVSG was born not out of resources, but out of heart and today, we look around and see the incredible impact of that heart.

To every single one of you who has chosen to be present tonight whether you have been part of this journey from the beginning or have only just joined us thank you. Thank you for believing in this vision. Thank you for walking with us.

To our loyal supporters who have stood by us through every challenge and triumph, your unwavering faith has carried us through storms. To our new partners, your presence reminds us

that the work continues, that the mission still matters, and that the community is growing. You are part of something greater than any one person you are part of a legacy of love and protection.

I want to especially honour those who have been with us through the darkest hours who stood beside us when the world seemed silent, who never gave up, even when the fight felt too heavy.

You are the quiet heroes of this journey, and your sacrifice does not go unnoticed.

This celebration is not about one organization. It's about the lives that have been restored. It's about the children who now sleep in safety, The women who have found their strength again,

And the communities who are beginning to believe that change is possible.

SVSG has never been perfect. But it has always been faithful. Faithful to the broken, to the abandoned, to the unheard. And tonight, we renew that commitment with gratitude in our hearts and courage in our steps.



As I look to the future, I pray that in another ten years, others will stand here in my place still wrapped in the warmth of your support, still surrounded by people who care deeply about justice and dignity. Because SVSG has never been about one person. It's about all of us. The community. The collective heart of Samoa. So, from the depths of my soul fa'afetai. Thank you, thank you, thank you. For your hands, For your prayers, For your resources, And for your love.

May we continue to serve with humility, lead with compassion, and build a Samoa where everyone feels safe, valued, and seen. God bless you all, and God bless SVSG"