

# THE HORRIFIC ABUSE OF THE VOICELESS



1970/01/01



# **SAMOA VICTIM SUPPORT GROUP**

presents

## **End Violence Against Women 'Telling Their Story'**



# **OUR MOTTO**

**We Support**

**We Help**

**We Care**

**WE ARE YOUR FAMILY**

# OUR HISTORY



## **The Humble Beginnings:**

- Co-founded by a young female lawyer, 3 young attorneys and 3 female ex-police officers, who were continually confronted by a gap in the support network for victims of sexual violence;
- Spirit of Volunteerism, Work as a Family, Work from the Heart

## **Human Resources:**

- 10 paid staff in 3 locations, 2 on Upolu and 1 on Savaii
- Over 500 volunteer village representatives across Samoa who are our strength

# OUR APPROACHES

1. Advocacy;

2. Prevention & Support;

3. Protection & Healing





# OUR ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE



# Paving the Way:

- The Family Safety Act 2013 – criminalized family violence
- The Crimes Act 2013 – life imprisonment for rape; extended definition for rape
- The Family & Youth Court 2013 – specifically for family violence
- The SVSG Advocacy Program for Offenders of Violence





# **Making it Count:**

Samoa's population 180,000 people (2016)

From 2005 – 2016, SVSG's data revealed:

## **The lives we have saved:**

- 8,532 Casework assistance
- 215 Rape case victims assisted
- 120 Attempted rape
- 116 Incest rape



- 1,212 Domestic violence
- 213 Child abuse
- 50 Attempted suicide
- 897 Children sheltered
- 105 Abused mothers sheltered
- 1,850 Disability & Elderly



## Lives we have rehabilitated:

- 800 sheltered children successfully re-integrated to society;
- 713 offenders of violence successfully completed court referred programs with SVSG



## **The families we have reunited:**

- Over 1,000 through counselling;
- Over 300 through mediation



## The people we have reached:

- Over 100,000 through the Help Line (25% potential crises, more than 2600 from women & children survivors of violence)
- Over 80,000 through Ending Violence Awareness
- Over 50,000 through “No to Rape” Awareness
- Over 10,000 through Gender Equality Awareness [Nofotane Project]



## Justice being served:

- Over 200 sexual abused cases heard in Court with 90% success rate;
- Over 300 protection order applications for family violence set final by the Courts



# The difference we have made:

- Mentality change;
- Community on the alert;
- Stronger communities established;
- Behavioral change



# The Shelter:

- Pregnant children from incest rape



# Walking with victims to Court



# Supporting 11 – 12 year olds through birthing



# Caring for children saved from attempted abortion





# The Cases:

- 24 Hour Free Help Line
- Evacuating women threatened and victims of violence



- Sheltering women survivors of violence in our homes and exposure of our families to danger;
- Looking after children while mothers lodged complaints;



# Economic Empowerment for Vulnerable Women





# THE CAMPUS OF HOPE

The only shelter for abused & neglected children in Samoa



# The House of Blessings

A nursery for babies up to 2 years





# The House of Hope

For children 3 – 12 years old



# The House of Dreams

A dormitory for girls 13+ years



# The Ray of Hope Shelter

For pregnant rape survivors





# The School of Hope

## For continuing education on Campus



# THE AWARDS

## Woman of Courage Award 2012



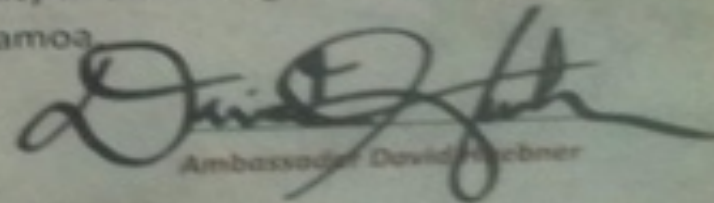
EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
&  
U.S. GOVERNMENT GLOBAL WOMEN'S INITIATIVE

### 'WOMAN OF COURAGE' AWARD

Presented to

*Ms Lina Chang*

For exemplary courage, creativity, and tenacity in advancing the status of  
women and girls in Samoa

  
Ambassador David Heubner

March, 2012



# Certificate of Appreciation 2015



# Voice of the Voiceless 2016



# With and For Girls Award 2016



# Innovation & Excellence Team Award 2017





# OUR WORK



- Case work
- Counselling
- Court support
- Shelters
- Empowerment, Education, Livelihood training
- Community Engagement
- Holding Government Accountable
- Supporting those with disabilities; and
- SVSG Juniors, our youth and our Succession Plan

# THE CHALLENGES

- Lack of funding
- Staff shortage
- Lack of resources
- The official support system and sustainability
- Women's shelter

# HOW WOULD WE USE ONE-SKY GRANT?

- Market stalls across Samoa to help the women we have economically empowered to market their products;
- Strengthening systematic approach to prevention of violence against women to make it sustainable;
- Contribution towards shelter at Campus of Hope for victims of violence against women.

**PLEASE HELP US TO DO THIS!**

# **CLOSING REMARKS**

**The Strength of a Family, Binds Us  
The Strength from God, Holds Us**

**“A strong, proud and successful community,  
does not tolerate any form of violence  
against women”**

**Lina Chang, SVSG President**

**Fa’afetai & God Bless!**