

MEDIA RELEASE

SVSG and UNESCO Partnership Empowers Children and Young People in Science, Culture, and Reading.

**Apia
25 April 2025:**

UNESCO in Samoa celebrated 'World Book Day' yesterday, at the SVSG Campus of Hope and organized a reading program for young children in the shelter. The reading program, themed "Read Your Way from the Campus of Hope," was coordinated by UNESCO officials who donated reading books and educational materials for the children.

The UNESCO Regional Education Coordinator, Ms. Nina Manuson, led this initiative alongside her team, creating an education-friendly space for children to explore the world through reading.

This program is part of a formal partnership between SVSG and UNESCO, established earlier this month by President Siliniu Lina Chang and UNESCO Director and Representative Dr. Shamila Nair-Bedouelle. This partnership reinforces UNESCO's commitment to empowering the rights of children in SVSG's care through education and learning, while promoting cultural resilience and science.

To enhance children's rights in education, UNESCO has scheduled ongoing programs that include special education events at the Campus. These events will feature a science exhibition, cinema sessions focused on cultural learning, and additional reading programs.

SVSG President, Afioga Siliniu, emphasized the critical message from SVSG to the world, that the children at the SVSG shelter deserve strong protection and recognition of their rights to education and learning, and should not be bound to the experience of violence and abuse they went through. She also expressed her gratitude to UNESCO in Samoa for their generosity and support for the most vulnerable children and young people at the Campus of Hope.

END

Ensuring that victims of crime and those in need are well supported to be safe and in control to restore their lives

2016: With and for Girls Award – Star Foundation of London

2017: Innovation & Excellence Team Award – Samoa Public Service

2018: Finalist, International Children's Peace Prize 2018 – Kids Right Foundation of Amsterdam, Netherlands

2018: Human Rights Champion in Samoa – UNESCO

2019: Innovation for Sustainable Development Award – Commonwealth Secretary-General

2020: Nominated Person(s) of the Year – Samoa Observer

2021: Outstanding Contributions to Human Rights Promotion & Protection – Samoa Office of the Ombudsman/NHRI

2023: Healthy Islands Best Proposal Award – World Health Organization

