



Guam Coalition Against Sexual Assault & Family Violence

Highlights of 2024

Reflecting on Progress: A Year of Advocacy and Action

As we reflect on the Coalition's activities in 2024, we are filled with gratitude for our members and partners. Together, we've achieved significant milestones in our mission to foster safe, healthy, and violence-free communities for survivors of sexual assault and family violence. From impactful conferences and webinars to community outreach and awareness, each effort has strengthened our collective response to create lasting change. Your hard work, dedication, and compassion have been invaluable, helping us enhance supportive communities where survivors' voices are heard, and needs are met.



*Thank you for your unwavering commitment
and for standing by us throughout the year.
Here's to more progress in 2025!*

January
2024

2024 Strategic Planning

On January 8th, 2024, GCASAFV launched its Strategic Planning Session at Capitol Kitchen, bringing together Coalition members and partners to discuss and shape the future of our shared mission. This gave Coalition members the opportunity to hear of the GCASAFV's 17 years at-a-glance and share their ideas on priorities for 2024.

This event was the beginning of the year-long conversations with members and partners through various needs assessments, roundtable discussions, and listening sessions to address domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, and the intersection with other issues that impact our communities. Key areas of focus included promoting healthy relationships, addressing mental health and substance abuse, engaging men and boys in prevention efforts, addressing child exposure to domestic violence, and combating human trafficking. Thank you to all of those who participated in the Strategic Planning Session. Your valuable insights have been prioritized throughout the year in our conferences, webinars, and community outreaches.



GCASAFV Executive Director, Cynthia Cabot, addressed coalition partners during the Strategic Planning Session.

National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month and Stalking Awareness Month

On January 14th, 2024, GCASAFV and its partners hosted a community outreach event at the Micronesia Mall Center Court to recognize January as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Month and Stalking Awareness Month. The event featured signing of the January Proclamation by Governor Lourdes Leon Guerrero and Lt. Governor Joshua Tenorio, which highlighted the need for a whole-community approach, involving educational, social, and law enforcement systems, to enhance awareness and education on identifying signs and supporting survivors. Speaker Therese Terlaje and members of the 37th Guam Legislature also presented a Legislative Resolution recognizing stalking as a dangerous and traumatic crime and human trafficking as a public health crisis that exploits the most vulnerable and harms communities.



Governor Lourdes Leon Guerrero and Lt. Governor Joshua Tenorio signed a proclamation for the January events, while Speaker Therese Terlaje and members of the 37th Guam Legislature presented a Legislative Resolution to the Guam Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Family Violence and partners.



Guam Coalition member Guma' Mami, Inc. provides support and services to individuals with disabilities such as group homes, transitional housing, and educational support groups. The Micronesian Resource Center One Stop Shop, a special project of Mañe'lu, provides informational and educational resources to individuals and families migrating to Guam.



The Public Defender Services Corporation's Civil Law Center presented information on services they provide such as no-cost legal advice and services to those experiencing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.



The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands provided information on various resources such as Project Safe Childhood and Project Safe Neighborhoods.



TOHGE (Transforming Ourselves through Healing, Growth & Enrichment) is Guam's only peer-run recovery organization for those struggling with mental health and/or substance abuse.

February
2024



Addressing Sexual Assault & Domestic Violence & the Intersection with Human Trafficking



On February 6th-8th, 2024, GCASAFV held the “Addressing Sexual Assault & Domestic Violence & the Intersection with Human Trafficking” conference. Featured presenters included Nina Jusuf, Co-founder of the National Organization of Asians and Pacific Islanders Ending Sexual Violence (NAPIESV); Luz Marquez Benbow, NAPIESV Training & Technical Assistance Manager; Nicole Matthews, Executive Director of the Minnesota Indian Women’s Sexual Assault Coalition (MIWSAC); Mary Kate Soliva, Co-founder of the Guam Human Rights Initiative (GHRI); Emeliana Musrasrik-Carl, President of the Pohnpei Women Council; and Amber Holly Osima, Victim Advocate from the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit under the Bureau of Public Safety in the Republic of Palau.

Presenters highlighted the different types of trafficking, including forced labor, sex trafficking, child sex trafficking, and the importance of recognizing trafficking operations and supporting the legal system in holding traffickers accountable. The conference emphasized the need to break the cycles of victimization and shift the focus toward healing for survivors, which must include equity, cultural wisdom, and traditional healing practices.

During the conference, attendees participated in roundtable discussions reflecting on these statements: I am here because I care about, prevention in my community means, and how we can bridge the network of resources across the nation/region. These discussions were instrumental in gathering insight from coalition members and community partners.



Individuals from the Guam Department of Education (GDOE) and the Guam Army National Guard participated in roundtable discussions.

GCASAFV: *Reflecting on Progress*



Individuals from Mañe'lu, Guam Legal Services Corporation - Disability Law Center, and WestCare Pacific Islands participated in roundtable discussions.



Individuals from New Beginnings and the Guam Police Department participated in roundtable discussions.

Inetnon Yo'ámte Hatdin Hinemlo Planting Days

In February and May 2024, GCASAFV set aside time for staff, partners, and volunteers to assist with our Inetnon Yo'ámte Project that focused on creating our Hatdin Hinemlo (healing garden). With the assistance of high school students, community volunteers, and our partners, we successfully planted 148 local indigenous plants around three acres of the Medical Arts Center property in Dededo. Beyond tree planting, the February event emphasized community engagement and education. GCASAFV's partners provided educational and informational sessions at the Healing Garden about available services and the resources their organizations provide and the significance of community support and wellness initiatives.

The Inetnon Yo'ámte Project was funded by the Fina'maolek Grant Program of the Guam Department of Agriculture (DOAG) Forestry and Soil Resources Division, Urban and Community Forestry Program and the USDA Forest Service. The Inetnon Yo'ámte core project team included NAPIESV, TOGHE Inc., Nicolette Baldovino Community Foundation, and CW Holdings. GCASAFV also appreciates the DOAG assistance with providing 123 of the 148 trees and shrubs that were planted, and the continued support of CW Holdings for installing water sprinklers and the continuous maintenance of the grounds to allow the plants to thrive. Consistent with the objective related to the health and well-being connection to trees and the environment, the Project also thrived thanks to the core project team partners who were essential to developing the Project's Hatdin Hinemlo (healing garden).



Overview of the Medical Arts Center, where the Healing Garden is located. The healing garden encompasses 3 acres of the Medical Arts Center property.



High school students volunteered to take part in the planting process of the Healing Garden.



Nicolette Baldovino Community Foundation was a key partner in the Inetnon Yo'ámte Hatdin Hinemlo Project.

March 2024

#Unfiltered: Teen Dating Violence, Technology, and Strategic Safety Planning Webinar

On March 1st, 2024, the Coalition hosted “#Unfiltered: Teen Dating Violence, Technology, and Strategic Safety Planning,” a webinar featuring Audace Garnett, Technology Safety Net Project Manager from the National Network to End Domestic Violence, and Tonjie Reese, founder of Eleven24.



This webinar explored the pervasive role of technology in the lives of teenagers, highlighting both its positive and negative impacts and noted that 40% of those aged 14-24 have experienced technology abuse, with one in four teens reporting being called names, harassed, or put down by their partner through cell phones or texting. The presenters highlighted forms of tech abuse such as harassment, gaslighting, control, information gathering, financial abuse, and sexual abuse, and encouraged participants to approach these situations by actively listening to survivors, fostering trust, and encouraging teens to rely on their instincts.

Community Advocate Interpreters/Translators (CAIT) Project

From March 18 to March 22, GCASAFV hosted a specialized training for community interpreters and translators as a part of the Community Advocate Interpreters/Translators Project. The CAIT Project aims to ensure those with limited English proficiency have seamless access to critical resources and services, addressing a key barrier to supporting the island's diverse community. Led by trainers from the Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence

(API-GBV), this 5-day training aimed to strengthen interpreters' skills to provide accurate, professional, and culturally sensitive support in highly sensitive situations.

The training equipped participants with technical skills, and emphasized the importance of empathy, active listening, and professionalism when working with survivors of trauma.



23 individuals completed the 5-day Community Advocate Interpreters/Translators Training.

Training presenters (left to right): Tomiko Tamashiro Pardo, Monica Modi Khant, and Innocenta Sound-Kikku



Participants in the training session worked on developing symbols and note-taking techniques when interpreting and translating.

April 2024



Signing of Proclamations and Presentation of Legislature Resolution

On April 5th, GCASAFV, community partners, and island leaders gathered to recognize April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month, Child Abuse Prevention Month, and National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

Governor Lourdes Leon Guerrero and Lt. Governor Joshua Tenorio signed a proclamation recognizing the April events and highlighted the themes of "Building Connected Communities" for Sexual Assault Awareness Month, "Doing Things Differently: Moving from Challenge to Change" for Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month, and "How Would You Help?" for National Crime Victims' Rights Week. Nearly 200 attendees witnessed the signing of the Joint Proclamation by military leaders from the Joint Region Marianas, Andersen Air Force Base, Naval Base Guam, Guam National Guard, Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz, Coast Guard Sector Guam, and the THAAD Missile Defense.

Nationally, April has been recognized as Sexual Assault Awareness Month since 2001, Child Abuse Prevention Month since 1983, and National Crime Victims' Rights Week since 1981; all focused on raising awareness of sexual violence, child abuse, and crime victimization, as well as promoting prevention strategies and supporting survivors.

This annual event, with participation from community advocates and government agencies, emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts in raising public awareness, providing support, and continuing to combat sexual violence, child abuse, and crime victimization in Guam.

April was also recognized as: Autism Awareness Month, Youth Month, Month of the Young Child, and Month of the Military Child.



Military leaders signed a Military Proclamation declaring April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month.



Speaker Therese Terlaje and senators from the 37th Guam Legislature presented a Legislative Resolution to GCASAFV and partners.



Nearly 200 individuals attended the Signing of Proclamations and Presentation of the Legislative Resolution for the April events.

April Community Outreach

On April 27th, GCASAFV hosted a community outreach event at the Agana Shopping Center in recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, Child Abuse Prevention Month, Autism Awareness Month, Month of the Military Child, Month of the Young Child, Youth Month, and National Crime Victims' Rights Week. Twenty-six coalition member and partner organizations showcased their services, resources, and programs aimed at supporting individuals and families. The outreach event emphasized the importance of building a supportive and informed community to address critical issues affecting the island.



GCASAFV engaged the community by designing river rocks for the Inetnon Yo'ânte Project's pathway to health.



May
2024

Inetnon Yo'ámte Project: 'Just Planting' Day

In May, GCASAFV hosted a "Just Planting Day" event to nurture the Healing Garden and ensure that the plants had the best conditions to thrive. Volunteers, alongside the Department of Agriculture, worked together to tend to the plants. The Healing Garden continues to grow as a testament to the collective efforts of those committed to fostering healing for survivors. Thank you to those who joined us and contributed their time and energy!



GCASAFV and community volunteers gathered mulch/soil to place onto the plants to prevent overgrowth of weeds.



Guam Coalition Against Sexual Assault & Family Violence
MEDICAL AREA OFFICE

INETNON YO'ÁMTE PROJECT

Healing Garden - Hatdin Hinemlo

GCASAFV Léngua NAPIESV NAPIESV

Planting the Seeds: Working with Youth in Violence Prevention Conference

On May 1st and 2nd, GCASAFV hosted the “Planting the Seeds: Working with Youth in Violence Prevention” conference which featured off-island presenters Mira Yusef, with NAPIESV and Executive Director of Monsoon Asians & Pacific Islanders in Solidarity, and Kate Bailly, Monsoon’s Youth Program Coordinator. This conference focused on addressing sexual violence prevention through culturally relevant and community-centered approaches. It highlighted the unique challenges faced by Guam’s Asian and Pacific Islander (API) communities while emphasizing the importance of education, collaboration, and systematic support to create safe environments for youth.

Breakout sessions focused on a variety of topics such as the highlights of the Inetnon Yo’ãmtë Hatdin Hinemlo (Healing Garden), the Moving Ahead Curriculum, mental wellness,

and understanding Title IX regulations in addressing discrimination in educational settings. The conference also touched on mandated reporting of child abuse and important statistics from Healing Hearts Crisis Center.

Denise Crisostomo, with the Department of Agriculture (DOAG) Forestry Division, and Joseph Santos, from the Northern Guam Soil Water Conservation District, conducted presentations to discuss how plants and planting not only benefits one therapeutically but also has positive effects on the environment. Another workshop session featured a cultural practitioner, Maria Barcinas, who engaged conference attendees and promoted “Wellness through Weaving” while demonstrating weaving techniques using coconut leaves to make simple items.



GCASAFV ED Cynthia Cabot welcomed attendees to the Planting the Seeds: Working with Youth in Violence Prevention Conference.



Attendees participated in a breakout session centered on the Inetnon Yo’ãmtë Hatdin Hinemlo (Healing Garden).



In a breakout session centered on cultural traditions, attendees learned the art of weaving with coconut leaves, embracing a hands-on connection to heritage and creativity.



Attendees learned about current trends and events surrounding sexual violence, gaining insight into the evolving challenges and issues impacting communities

June 2024

Inetnon Yo'ámte Project: Just Planting Day

GCASAFV held its second “Just Planting Day” event in June. The core team of volunteers focused on assessing the areas around each sapling to see if there was anything impacting the plant’s growth. Thank you to all the volunteers who participated in our Inetnon Yo'ámte Project!

GCASAFV and community volunteers gathered to assess plants.



Building the Foundation to Engage Youth & Young Adults to End Sexual & Intimate Partner Violence Webinar

On June 4th, 5th, 11th, and 12th GCASAFV hosted a four-day webinar, “Building the Foundation to Engage Youth & Young Adults to End Sexual & Intimate Partner Violence,” facilitated by Ashleigh Klein-Jimenez, Janae Sargent, and Shelby Vice from ValorUS. The sessions focused on practical strategies for preventing sexual and intimate partner violence, especially by empowering youth as change-makers! Topics included key prevention ideas, ways to get youth involved, and the importance of addressing community-level factors like education, outreach, and advocacy. Though prevention efforts can

look different in every community, it is most effective when it’s a collective effort.

A big part of the conversation discussed how economic disparities, education, and environmental factors play into violence prevention and emphasized how ensuring equal access to resources can help protect vulnerable communities. The trainers also covered how to engage youth through policy changes, community involvement, as well as sports programs to help build leadership.



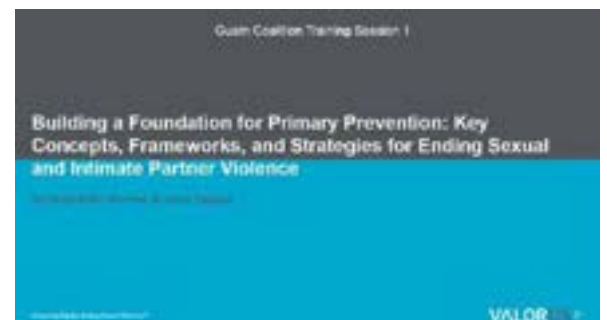
Janae Sargent (they/she)



Ashleigh Klein-Jimenez (she/her)



Shelby Vice (she/her)



July
2024

Strengthening Community Response to Address Sexual/Domestic Violence in API Communities

This four-day conference, held from July 9th to July 12th, featured presenters Lea Akima and Nina Jusuf from the NAPIESV; Rosemarie B. Camacho from the Guam Veteran's Clinic; Jean Macalinao and Christa Porte from WestCare Pacific Islands; Andrew Suseno from Moving Rasa; Sasanna Ye from Communities As One; Audrey Inouye from Peaceful Heart; and Gabriela Zapata-Alma from the National Center on Domestic Violence, Trauma, and Mental Health. The conference covered a wide range of subjects, including sexual assault (SA) and domestic violence (DV) services in the community, the intersections of SA/DV with trauma, mental health, and substance use, as well as strategies for addressing compassion fatigue. Gabriela Zapata-Alma provided a deep dive into how SA/DV acts as a primary factor in traumatic experiences, offering supportive approaches for survivors and addressing suicidality. Nina Jusuf highlighted root causes of sexual violence, the importance of culturally specific healing approaches, and the need to create safe spaces for survivors within API and island communities.

The conference also emphasized community healing

and wellness through innovative and culturally grounded methods. Audrey Inouye introduced holistic practices rooted in Chinese and East Asian medicine, focusing on centering exercises and ancestral healing traditions often overshadowed by Western medicine. Andrew Suseno shared interactive activities such as movement exercises and sculpting to encourage personal reflection and team building while exploring balance in work and life. These sessions reinforced the importance of engaging community members in addressing SA/DV while promoting mental and emotional well-being.

On the final day, attendees participated in hands-on holistic healing practices led by Andrew, Sasanna, and Audrey. Sasanna guided participants through "Move the Chi," a meditative practice rooted in Qigong (pronounced chee-gong) principles that focused on breathing and movement to restore balance and promote healing. These sessions provided practical tools for restoration and self-care, empowering attendees to integrate culturally relevant and holistic approaches into their efforts to support survivors and foster healthier communities.



Attendees who participated in last day's training posed after engaging in wellness exercises focused on self-expression, healing, and balance.

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Attendees participated in the conference discussions regarding API communities and healing.



Over 100 individuals attended the four-day conference.



Andrew Suseno encouraged attendees to participate in a walking exercise focused on work and rest.



Sasanna Yee explained to attendees about the practice of Qigong or Chinese moving meditation.



Attendees engaged in a "label" exercise where they come together to explore movement without any boundaries or "labels."

GCASAFV: *Reflecting on Progress*

Family Wellness Day

On July 13th, Sasanna Yee from Communities As One, Andrew Suseno from Moving Rasa, and Audrey Inouye from Peaceful Hearts hosted a Family Wellness Day at the Medical Arts Center. The Family Wellness Day offered the community a chance to explore holistic practices such as amot (CHamoru traditional medicine), qigong (a mind-body practice involving gentle movement, breathing, and meditation), and reiki (a Japanese energy healing technique that promotes relaxation and stress reduction). Attendees also enjoyed engaging arts and activities, along with exciting raffle prizes, creating a meaningful and enriching experience for all.



An arts & crafts station provided a creative outlet for those who attended,



Audrey Inouye and Andrew Suseno thanked attendees for being a part of the event.



The Family Wellness Day was held at the Medical Arts Center. Attendees learned about traditional medicine and had the opportunity to receive healing.



Dr. Chris Lipat, a holistic Doctor of Chiropractic, offered restorative healing sessions to attendees.



Lourdes "Mama Lou" Manglona provided information on the use of local plants to craft traditional medicine.

August 2024

National Conferences

This year, GCASAFV supported staff and coalition members to attend national conferences and provide opportunities to network with others addressing gender-based violence and building our resources to share with our community partners. These conferences included the National Network to End Domestic Violence Safety Net's Tech Summit on August 5-7 in Washington D.C.; the 2024 National Sexual Assault Conference on

August 14-16 in Washington D.C.; Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence's 2024 National Summit: Growing From Our Roots Conference, held August 27-29 in San Francisco, California; and the Institute on Violence, Abuse, and Trauma's 29th International Summit: Working Together to Promote Well-being held on August 25-28 in San Diego. These events provided a greater connection with national resources to support our local efforts.

September 2024

Addressing Sexual/Domestic Violence Across the Lifespan from Intervention to Prevention

From September 24th to 26th, GCASAFV, in partnership with the Guam Police Department (GPD), hosted a conference, "Sexual/Domestic Violence Across the Lifespan: From Intervention to Prevention," and featured a distinguished lineup of off-island experts, including renowned speakers Dr. Jeffrey Aaron, Kim B. Simon, Myra Strand, Russell Strand, and Nicole Matthews. The conference also included local presenters who provided expertise on island resources. These presenters included Alexis Q. Silverio, JoeLyn Borja, Michael Brown, Nadine Cepeda, Jesse Quenga, Pamela Mabazza, Reuben Bugarin, Arthur Nedlic, Andrew Linhardt, and Evelyn Manibusan.

As the conference progressed, topics on youth transitioned seamlessly with those relevant to adulthood and older populations, highlighting the importance of addressing violence across the lifespan. The presentation on ethics along with the Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) standards highlighted the importance of maintaining professionalism and cultural sensitivity when providing services to diverse populations. Government agencies like Department of Public Health & Social Services' Adult Protective Services and Guam Department of Integrated Services for Individuals with Disabilities also played a crucial role in the discussions, sharing information about their programs that support adults and individuals with disabilities.

The conference covered the cycle of violence across the lifespan, and from prevention to intervention. Presenters Myra Strand, Russell Strand, and Nicole Matthews provided engaging presentations on youth violence prevention addressing critical issues such as sexual violence and influences, healthy sexual relationships, trauma-informed leadership, building resilience, and safety planning for Guam. Presenters Dr. Jeffrey Aaron and Kim B. Simon discussed more specific topics of youth violence prevention from the eyes of law enforcement such as policing the teen brain and responding to youth with mental health issues.



Myra Strand, owner and advocate for Strand Squared Solutions, provides training, education, and technical assistance with a focus on holistic health, organizational trauma, and social justice.



Russell Strand, CA, is a retired senior special agent who leads Effective Detective LLC and Strand Squared Solutions providing training and technical assistance in domestic violence, peer support, sexual assault, child abuse, human trafficking, forensic interviews, trauma response, and cultural transformation.

GCASAFV: *Reflecting on Progress*

The conference tackled violence at every stage of life, connecting the dots between prevention and intervention while equipping participants with practical tools and insights to create safer, healthier communities. The conference roundtable discussions provided an opportunity for service providers, advocates, and policymakers to collaborate and share ideas specifically focused on child exposure to violence and disaster planning for survivors of sexual and/or domestic violence. The valuable information gathered during these discussions will help inform future initiatives to address community needs.



Dr. Jeffrey Aaron, a clinical and forensic psychologist, maintains a private forensic practice that contributes to juvenile justice reform, and publishes extensively on trauma, forensic evaluations, and adolescent development.



Kim Simon currently serves as the Law Enforcement Training Director for Strategies for Youth. She works to improve police-youth interactions, serves as a sworn crisis negotiator on her local sheriff's office CNT/SRT Team and is a member of Improving Police-Adolescent Relationships through Training (IMPART).



Nicole Matthews, the Executive Director of the Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition, is an experienced trainer, facilitator, national and international speaker, and organizer with 30 years' experience in the anti-violence movement.



Attendees at the conference engaged in breakout session presentations.



Attendees at the conference participate in roundtable discussions addressing child exposure to violence and disaster planning for survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence.

October 2024

Family Violence Awareness Community Outreach

On October 5th at the Micronesia Mall, GCASAFV and its partners organized its annual Family Violence Awareness Month Community Outreach. This outreach brought together over 20 Coalition members and partners raising awareness of family violence issues on Guam while also providing information on the services and resources available to those experiencing family violence.

During the event, Governor Lourdes Leon Guerrero signed a Proclamation declaring October as Family Violence Awareness Month and recognized this year's theme, "Heal, Hold & Center," which encourages communities to unite in healing from violence and oppression, hold space for survivors, and center those most marginalized in our efforts to end domestic violence.

On island, there were 1545 cases of family violence recorded in 2023, which is a 19% increase of the number of 1283 family violence related cases recorded in 2022. In recognition of these statistics, the Governor's Proclamation declares that the "island joins jurisdictions across the United States and around the world in supporting survivors of family and domestic violence, finding justice for them, and working to put an end to these devastating crimes. We remain committed to supporting the vital work of public and private entities that strive to provide a coordinated response to these crimes to help survivors heal, ensure that perpetrators are prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law, and boldly declare that Guam does not tolerate any form of violence."

Speaker Therese Terlaje, Senator Chris Barnett, and Senator Sabina Perez also took the stage to present a Legislative Resolution in support of this important cause. The resolution recognized the importance of raising awareness during Family Violence Awareness month stating that on Guam, family violence is one of the most commonly reported crimes. The resolution commended GCASAFV and numerous community advocates, organizations, and government agencies, for their efforts in raising public awareness of family violence issues on Guam.



(From left to right) GCASAFV Board Member Leinani Naholowa'a, Administrator Jayne Flores from Bureau of Women's Affairs and Governor's Community Outreach Federal Programs Office, GCASAFV Director Cynthia Cabot and Chief Stephen Ignacio from the Guam Police Department join the Honorable Governor Lourdes Leon Guerrero for the signing of the Proclamation declaring October as Family Violence Awareness Month.



The Family Violence Awareness Month Outreach was held at the Micronesia Mall Center Court. Entertainment by Talent Box kept the event lively!

Healing Hearts Crisis Center, Guam's only rape crisis center provides crisis intervention and discrete, immediate, and full medical attention to survivors of sexual assault.

GCASAFV: Reflecting on Progress



Speaker Therese Terlaje, Senator Chris Barnett, and Senator Sabina Perez present a Legislative Resolution to members and partners of the Guam Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Family Violence.



Public Defender Services Corporation Civil Law Center provides no-cost legal advice and services to victims and survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

Mås Metgot I Lina'la - Growing Stronger Together Community Outreach

On October 10th, 2024, GCASAFV hosted an outdoor event, “Mås Metgot I Lina'la - Growing Stronger Together,” at Skinner’s Plaza. This special celebration combined Family Violence Awareness Month with Arbor Month, highlighting the importance of both nurturing our communities and caring for our environment. The event was a part of the Inetnon Yo’amte Wellness Outreach Project, which focuses on creating wellness resources and raise awareness of the wellness connection to

foster healthy people, healthy communities, and healthy environments, while incorporating the cultural healing benefits of local plants on island. Community members had the opportunity to meet our partners to learn of their resources through educational talk story sessions and engage with local community healers. During the event, individuals had the opportunity to discover how endemic trees and plants connect to our cultural heritage while nurturing our environment.



This year’s theme for Family Violence Awareness Month was “Mås Metgot I Lina'la” which translates to “Growing Stronger Together.”



Skilled weaver Maria Barcinas and Mariana Terlaje provide lessons on how to weave using coconut leaves.



Local healer Lourdes “Mama Lou” Manglona provides information on the use of local plants for traditional medicine and healing.



The Department of Agriculture’s Forestry Program provides information regarding Guam’s vegetative environment and how the community can come together to promote sustainability of natural resources.



Guam Alternative Lifestyle Association (GALA) presents on the resources they provide to strengthen the quality of life for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex persons through support, education, and advocacy.

GCASAFV: Reflecting on Progress



Got Your 671 is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping veteran's and their families regain self-confidence, support, and well-being both mentally and physically.



Alee Shelter which provides emergency shelter to both children ages birth to 17 and for women, with or without children, who are in crisis from family domestic violence and sexual assault.

November
2024

GHRI Conference Series: Poverty in Guam & the Pacific Islands



Representatives from the Department of Youth Affairs, Public Defender Services Corporation, Judiciary of Guam, and the Office of Homelessness and Poverty Prevention participated in a panel discussion to answer questions.

On November 15th, GCASAFV supported the Guam Human Rights Initiative's conference, "Poverty in Guam & the Pacific Islands," that shed a light on the critical issue of poverty and brought together experts from various fields to discuss, educate, and foster collaboration on solutions. The event featured keynote addresses, panel discussions, and breakout sessions covering topics such as economic development and job creation, educational opportunities and training, healthcare access and nutrition, and addressing housing instability and homelessness.

The conference covered topics that often intersect with the challenges also faced by SA/DV survivors. Tackling issues like housing, jobs, and access to healthcare can go a long way in helping people rebuild their lives. It's all connected - when we address poverty, we're also creating safer and more supportive communities for everyone. Thank you to the Guam Human Rights Initiative for allowing GCASAFV to be a part of the larger conversation of poverty on island.

December
2024

Q&A Office Hours: Confidentiality and Privacy Webinar

On December 5th, 2024, the GCASAFV partnered with the Safety Net Project of the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) to host "Q&A Office Hours: Confidentiality and Privacy." The zoom session highlighted the critical role of confidentiality and privacy in supporting survivors and emphasized the importance of having the right tools and knowledge to navigate these sensitive topics effectively. Participants had the opportunity to submit questions, which were addressed by Audace Garnett, Safety Net Project Manager, and Chad Sniffen, NNEDV Senior Specialist, offering valuable insights and practical guidance for advocates.



Christmas Elves Project

December is a month often set aside for sharing the holiday cheer. The GCASAFV team assembled care packages to benefit 90 wards of the Court and distributed by Attorney Marcelene Santos and her team at the Office of the Public Guardian (OPG). Now in its 23rd year, this project started as the Cookie Elves Project by Attorney John Weisenberger when he served as the Public Guardian, and now includes more than just cookies!

GCASAFV has been helping with this Project since 2012 and continues this tradition with OPG. GCASAFV appreciates the help of donors with helping spread the Christmas spirit and making this happen this year: Alee Shelter, Leinani Naholowaa and Family, Pale' Mike Crisostomo and St. Anthony Catholic Church, Attorney John and Liza Weisenberger, Monica Taimanglo, Grace Donaldson, Mary Kate Soliva, Taylor Amdal-Barela, and Cheri Wegner and Family.



GCASAFV extends the best of wishes to Attorney Marcelene Santos as she retires after serving as the Public Guardian for fifteen years.



GCASAFV extends the best of wishes to Attorney Marcelene Santos as she retires after serving as the Public Guardian for fifteen years.

The events highlighted in this publication were supported in part to funding resources the Guam Coalition Against Sexual Assault & Family Violence received:

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- Grant #15JOVW-22-GG-00877-MUMU and Grant #15JOVW-23-GG-03958-ENGA awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, US Department of Justice, (OVW/USDOJ).
- Grant #STOP 2020-WF-AX-0014, STOP 21 Grant #15JOVW-21-GG-00558-MUMU, and ICJR Grant #2020-WE-AX-0001 awarded by the Governor's Community Outreach – Federal Programs Office for OVW/USDOJ.
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- Funding support in part from a Fina'maolek Grant Program of the Department of Agriculture's Forestry and Soil Resources Division, Urban and Community Forestry Program and the USDA Forest Services.

The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed during these events are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of GCASAFV, project partners, and these funding agencies.