

For Official Release  
PR 002-12102021  
Office of the Governor  
Utulei, American Samoa  
December 10th, 2021



## “TAOA Hosts Annual Senior Citizens Christmas Program.”

*"You all are the treasures of our society. You are the link to the past, present, and future."  
"If you do not get vaccinated, then your children, grandchildren, and families will not get vaccinated."*

On December 9th, 2021, at the Department of Youth and Women's Affairs (DYWA) Tafuna Sports Center, the Department of Territorial Administration on Aging (TAOA) hosted the Governor's 8th Annual Senior Citizens Christmas Program.

Over 900 senior citizens attended. As the participants awaited the arrival of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor, the DYWA facility was filled with a festive atmosphere as the seniors danced and enjoyed the music.

"This occasion is always a special one when we get to spend time with all of you, our most treasured gifts to society," stated Governor Lemanu when explaining how important the Annual TAOA program is to the Lemanu-Talauega Administration. He continued, "You all are the treasures of our society. You are the link to the past, present, and future. You have seen the pace of progress throughout decades, and you possess knowledge and history that is invaluable. You are senior members of the family who know better about the FaaSamoa, genealogy, religion, family history, values, and related customary practices. Every day your families have a chance to celebrate your lives. Today, the Lieutenant Governor and I, along with the cabinet, get to celebrate you and also to celebrate the birth of Christ."

"The Lieutenant Governor and I are also responsible for the care of our elders in our own immediate families. We recognize and appreciate all your family members and caretakers that help take care of you daily," remarked Governor Lemanu.

He continued with one last request, "Before I sit down, I do want to remind and ask every one of you to get your COVID-19 vaccination shots. If you do not get vaccinated, then your children, grandchildren, and families will not get vaccinated."

TAOA's other highlighted services this year include:

- transferring congregate meal centers from halls to restaurant-based settings,
- improving transportation services for disabled seniors, and
- creating certified caregiver courses for home caregivers.

TAOA's annual event is the most anticipated throughout the year. The Governor and Cabinet members serve food and provide gift baskets to each senior citizen present at the event. A total of more than 1,100 gift baskets were prepared for the event by all departments, offices, and agencies of the Executive branch.

Entertainment was by the Silver Brothers Band, Tafuna High School Band students, and the Department of Human and Social Services.

###