

FIRST IMPACT FOUNDATION

Susana Vunipola



Class of 2013

Warehouse Stationery Scholar

Bachelor of Commerce and Arts

Kolomotu'a, Neiafu, Niuatoputapu, Hofoa, and

Kolovai, Tonga. Alofi, Niue.

Onehunga Community, Auckland

A hand up not a hand out

There is a whole village contributing to the success of a person, hand in hand throughout the whole process. There is a Tongan proverb: "shoo the fly while it's still afar". First Foundation were checking in every step of the way and supporting me when it got a bit tough.

The ripple effect of success

Mum has been able to enjoy the fruits of me working without me having to worry about diverting money to paying off a loan. I can see myself owning a house for my family and I'm excited for my future children because they will have a lot more than I did, more opportunity.

Giving back

I'm a Pacific Islands Ambassador. I get to open young people's eyes to the opportunities available to them. I go to High Schools and talk about university life, what to expect.

The backing of a good company

Warehouse Stationery values put people first, and I have carried that with me. Working at Warehouse Stationery while at university helped with my studies. I got experience in the different areas of my studies.

2013

First Foundation
Scholarship awarded



Graduated from Onehunga
High School

Mentor, Jane Day
helped me decide on
an arts/commerce
conjoint degree



Working at Warehouse
Stationery taught me to
put people first

Tupu Toa
provided me
with the
opportunity to
be a marketing
intern for Yellow

Working at World Vision
taught me to be
an active listener

Working at Auckland
Council in their 2020
Graduate Programme

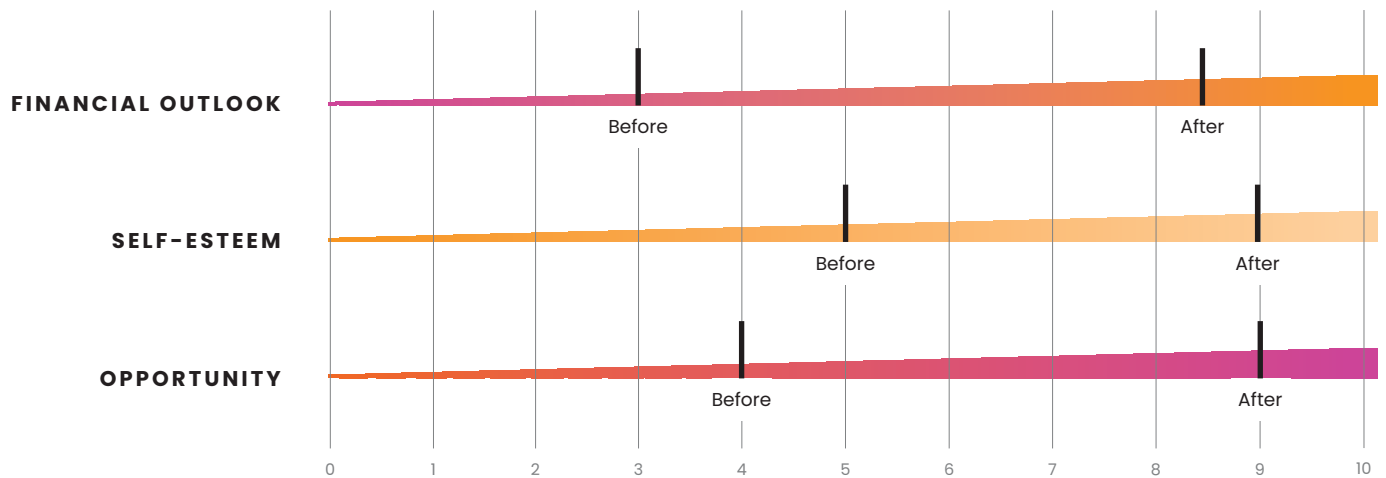


Next stop, The Beehive.
There are lots of issues,
but I see opportunity too

FUTURE

"Ta pe e lango kei mama'o"
A Tongan proverb meaning
"shoo the fly while it's still afar."

We asked Susana to measure the change to her sense of wellbeing on a scale of 1 to 10. This compares how she felt before she was granted the First Foundation Scholarship to how she feels now.



THE RIPPLE EFFECT

I'm the first in my family to go to university and I'm able to share my experience with my younger brothers to help them prepare and let them know what to expect



As a result of my scholarship and work experience with Warehouse Stationery, community involvement and completion of degree I'm moving into Auckland Council's 2020 Graduate Programme. There were 7 rounds to get through and I was one of 15 chosen.

My income is now higher than my mother who has been working for more than 30 years. This allows me to be able to help support my family and save toward my goal of owning a family home.

I've got the confidence to know that I can step into any space and I deserve to be there because I worked hard for it.