

**SLT Scholars**  
**March 2022 Newsletter**

Sponsors and Friends –

I am happy to be sending you Rita's March newsletter. At the bottom of her newsletter are links to videos showing junior high and high school graduation ceremonies and the start of classes this year. Enjoy!

I also encourage you to read our [2020 Annual Report](#). On page 3, you will read the story of how Dennis came to San Lucas Tolimán and his reasons for starting the SLT Scholars program. We will be publishing our 2021 Annual Report in April and this report will tell you about the start of our program and highlight Dennis' gifts to the people of San Lucas Tolimán.

Julie Marcotte, Executive Director

Dear Sponsors and Friends,

Please receive my warmest greetings to you. I hope you are all well! I am so grateful for your continued support and for the trust you put in our organization to faithfully carry out the work of furthering education for our sponsored students. The best tool we have in our developing country to offer a future of dignity and hope to our young people is through supporting their education.

We have begun our school year here in Guatemala. Because of the COVID pandemic, the public schools did not finish until December and after a two-month break they just recently commenced classes at the end of February. Private schools started their school year the second week of January, which has created some confusion for the families of school children. We do hope that this year the private and public schools can get back on the same schedule.

In our SLT Scholars program, we are delighted to see many children who can continue their education through these scholarships. In addition to paying tuition, the program has been able to buy the students their school shoes, tennis shoes, backpacks for some, and school supplies for others who need them. I want to share with you the gratitude and joy that the students' families share with me because their children can continue their education. Some students no longer live with their parents, either because their parents have died or they have had to leave, so in some cases it may be aunts, uncles, older siblings, or grandparents who are coming to me with words of thanksgiving for the SLT Scholars program and the sponsors who donate and make this all possible.

All the variants of COVID have affected our citizens here. Many people are now accepting vaccinations and many have also received booster shots. There are less deaths and we are becoming more prepared to face the challenges of COVID. Also because of COVID, the schools are still offering shortened school days, keeping students in smaller work groups to provide social distancing and asking the students to do more of their schoolwork at home.

As I go around to visit the schools our sponsored students attend, I can see how excited the students are that they can now be back in class, working alongside their schoolmates and learning from their teachers in person. This has been a really hard time for all, but especially for the young students who have missed the companionship of their classmates. Perhaps they have also learned the importance of discipline as they motivate themselves to do work on their own in order to succeed in their assignments.

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I would like to share 2 videos with you to help you understand the current environment here in San Lucas. These videos include some clips from the 2021 junior high and high school graduations, as well as the beginning of the 2022 school year: <https://youtu.be/9rB5BX1Lxis> and <https://youtu.be/LVA2cKjEmK0>.

Rita Chajil