



**San Lucas Tolimán Scholars**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**

## From the Board of Directors

It is a privilege to serve on the SLT Scholars Board of Directors – to be making a difference in the lives of so many.

Year after year we have expanded our reach. More students received scholarships than last year, we are supporting students in communities not previously served, and we have expanded our program services this year to support the schools in which our scholars study.

Our primary purpose continues to be to allow students to attend junior high school for 3 years (7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> grades) with the option to continue to high school – high school is an additional 2 to 4 years depending on the career chosen. And some of our scholars have continued to study in university-level programs. These are our future leaders!

Two years ago, we started working with the school director in Nueva Vida, a very poor community about 10 miles down the road from San Lucas. SLT Scholars is now supporting 75 students attending junior high school in their community's school.

And all of this progress is despite the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Not surprisingly, school administrators and teachers figured out how to teach remotely and students learned the same. The people of Guatemala are resourceful and motivated. It wasn't easy, and all are learning how to improve until in-person classes resume. School will start in January 2021 using hybrid teaching models.

We are pleased to tell you that additional designated donations have enabled us to expand our program services. We have purchased textbooks for schools and upgraded computers.

We are grateful for your many donations that allowed us to provide additional support to our families as they struggled with COVID-19. We anticipate additional program services next year as the people of San Lucas respond to this pandemic.

### **Our Goal for the SLT Scholars Program**

Our goal is the same – to provide a scholarship for every child in the San Lucas Tolimán area who has demonstrated scholastic ability and achievement but cannot continue in junior high without a scholarship. There is always a waiting list.

The Board is most appreciative of our donors who have continued their support and continued to give our scholars hope for their futures.

## Board of Directors

**Julie Marcotte**  
Director, Executive  
Director, Acting  
Treasurer

**David Osgood,**  
**Ph.D.**  
Director and Chair

**Judy Osgood**  
Director

**Jan Tetzlaff**  
Director and Secretary

## Guatemala Operations

**Dennis Evans**  
Program Director

**Rita Chajil de Sicay**  
Program Administrator

[About Dennis & Rita](#)



## In Honor and Remembrance of Dennis Evans

### Founder of San Lucas Tolimán Scholars

#### Dennis' History

Born in 1944 in London, England, Dennis Evans began his discovery of Guatemala and love for its people in 1970, working in the city of Nahualá as a radio technician at "La Voz de Nahualá" radio station.

Wishing to help in a different way, he returned to England to study teaching and earned a teaching degree in Mathematics, a bachelor in Humanities, and a specialization in Computer Science.

After caring for his parents until their death in 1989, he returned to Guatemala in 1990 to teach English and mathematics in San María Visitación at the school of La Salle. The De La Salle brothers invited him to train as a member, hence his honorific of Brother. After his training he went to teach in Chiquimula, Guatemala.

Later in Managua, Nicaragua, he met the Salesian brothers and worked in Santa Ana in El Salvador with street children with the program "The City of Children". He was sent to Guatemala again, where he taught English for 2 years in the city of Quetzaltenango. It was there where he realized that he did not have the vocation much less the patience or the intention of working with children from rich families because most of them felt money would get them everything. That caused him to recognize his real desire was to work with children and families who had greater needs.

He traveled with the Salesian brothers to visit San Lucas Tolimán where he met Father Greg Schafer. After this meeting with Father Greg, Dennis decided to move to San Lucas Tolimán. When he arrived, Father Greg said, "As you are an educator, Dennis, you can choose whether you want to support the teachers in the school or teach catechism with the members of the church." Dennis chose a role of "orientation" because he did not want to take away someone's work.

After several years working in the parish of San Lucas, some of his family and friends from England sent him money to support the people. With the permission of Father Greg, Dennis started helping 12 children in primary school from the community of Pampojilá (outside of San Lucas) buying them clothes and shoes. When it came time to continue their schooling in junior high school, only 4 of the 12 continued.

When he realized the scope of the financial problem for poor families, Dennis began the SLT Scholars program so children from those families could continue their schooling, never dreaming when he paid for the first 12 students how much and how quickly the program would grow."

\*The 2020 Annual Report was delayed because of Dennis' illness throughout 2020 and his death in 2021.

# San Lucas Tolimán Scholars

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

# 2020

## Our Motivation – 2020 in Review

Our motivation is constant. We know that education makes life-changing differences in children's lives, especially in the poorest communities – those whom we serve. This is most true in Guatemala where free education is provided only through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Imagine life in the U.S. with only a 6<sup>th</sup>-grade education and a poor one at that.

Dennis Evans reports that parents are very motivated to keep their children in school; given the devastation caused by COVID-19, we expected many to drop out, but that didn't happen!

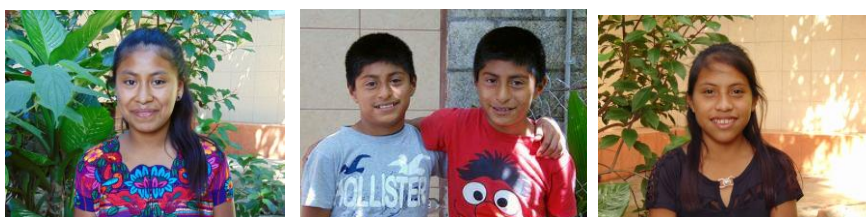
### Achievements

- 960 students received sponsorships: 598 to attend junior high, 345 to attend high school, and 17 to attend university.
- While there were no graduation ceremonies this year because of the COVID-19 pandemic, 179 students completed junior high school and 93 were graduated from high school.
- Large donations were made by individuals and rotary organizations to allow us to purchase textbooks for 2 schools and upgrade computers in 4 schools. These donations help us help many.

We continue to look for ways in which we can expand our reach and help more students. One way we have done this is to help schools improve their teaching infrastructure with computers and textbooks. We will continue to look for opportunities to extend our reach. This is possible because of the generosity of our supporters.

We also expect that changes will result as the education community in San Lucas responds to the COVID-19 virus.

As we look forward with hope, SLT Scholar sponsorships will continue to help our students continue in school, working toward a future filled with possibilities.



## Education Matters

### **Better Jobs**

More options:  
higher-paying,  
more meaningful,  
more fulfilling

### **Better Health**

Education on good  
nutrition and  
available social  
services, safe  
drinking water,  
proper food  
preparation

### **Better Parenting**

Safety and care for  
family, instruction  
and guidance for  
life

### **Better Citizenship**

Developing  
community leaders,  
promoting  
community

# San Lucas Tolimán Scholars

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

# 2020

## Financials

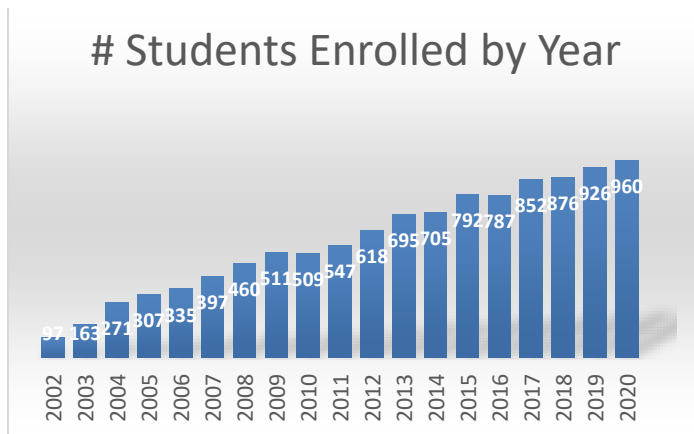
Statement of Financial Position Data*	2020	2019
<b>Assets</b>	\$3,486	\$2,746
<b>Liabilities</b>	\$0	\$0
<b>Net Assets</b>	\$3,486	\$2,746

Statement of Activity Data**		
<b>Support and Revenues</b>		
Donations	\$415,579	\$274,645
<b>Total Support and Revenues</b>	\$415,579	\$274,645
<b>Expenditures</b>		
Program Operation Expenses	\$210,155***	\$245,676
General and Administrative Expenses	\$2,609	\$2,163
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	\$225,264	\$247,839
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	\$190,314	\$26,806

### Notes

- SLT Scholars fiscal year is August through July. This annual report is for fiscal year 2019 which supports the 2020 school year.
- \*US Operations – These totals represent the money available for US Operations.
- \*\* Guatemala Operations – These totals represent money donated for student scholarships and schools.
- \*\*\*Includes donations for scholarships and support for the schools in which our students study. The donations include support for computers and textbooks.
- The change in fund balance at fiscal year-end is the result of timing differences between receipt of donations and payment of scholarship expenses.

## SLT Scholars Annual Growth



SLT Scholars is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Your contribution is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

More than 99% of monies donated for student sponsorship are allocated to student tuition and educational needs.

Dennis Evans and the Board volunteer their time.

Donations help to pay administrative expenses.



# San Lucas Tolimán Scholars

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

# 2020



## How to Sponsor an SLT Scholars Student

**Step 1:** Email Rita Chajil at [rita.sltscholars@gmail.com](mailto:rita.sltscholars@gmail.com) to inquire about students seeking sponsorship. You will be assigned the next student on our priority list unless you have a specific request. Rita will contact you with information about your student and confirm your willingness to sponsor that student.

**Step 2:** We accept payment by personal check (mail or online bill pay) and via PayPal. Mail your check for \$250 payable to “SLT Scholars”, include your email address on the memo line for receipt confirmation, and mail your check to: SLT Scholars, 34 Hilltop Lane, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55116-2720. Pay via PayPal (PayPal or debit/credit card) at this link: [PayPal](#)

Your \$250 annual donation covers enrollment, tuition, and some related school expenses – uniform, shoes, computing activities, and school supplies. Parents are responsible for supplementary costs and dues, but sponsorship covers most expenses.

Throughout the year you will receive letters from your student as well as informational emails about the program from Rita Chajil, Program Administrator.

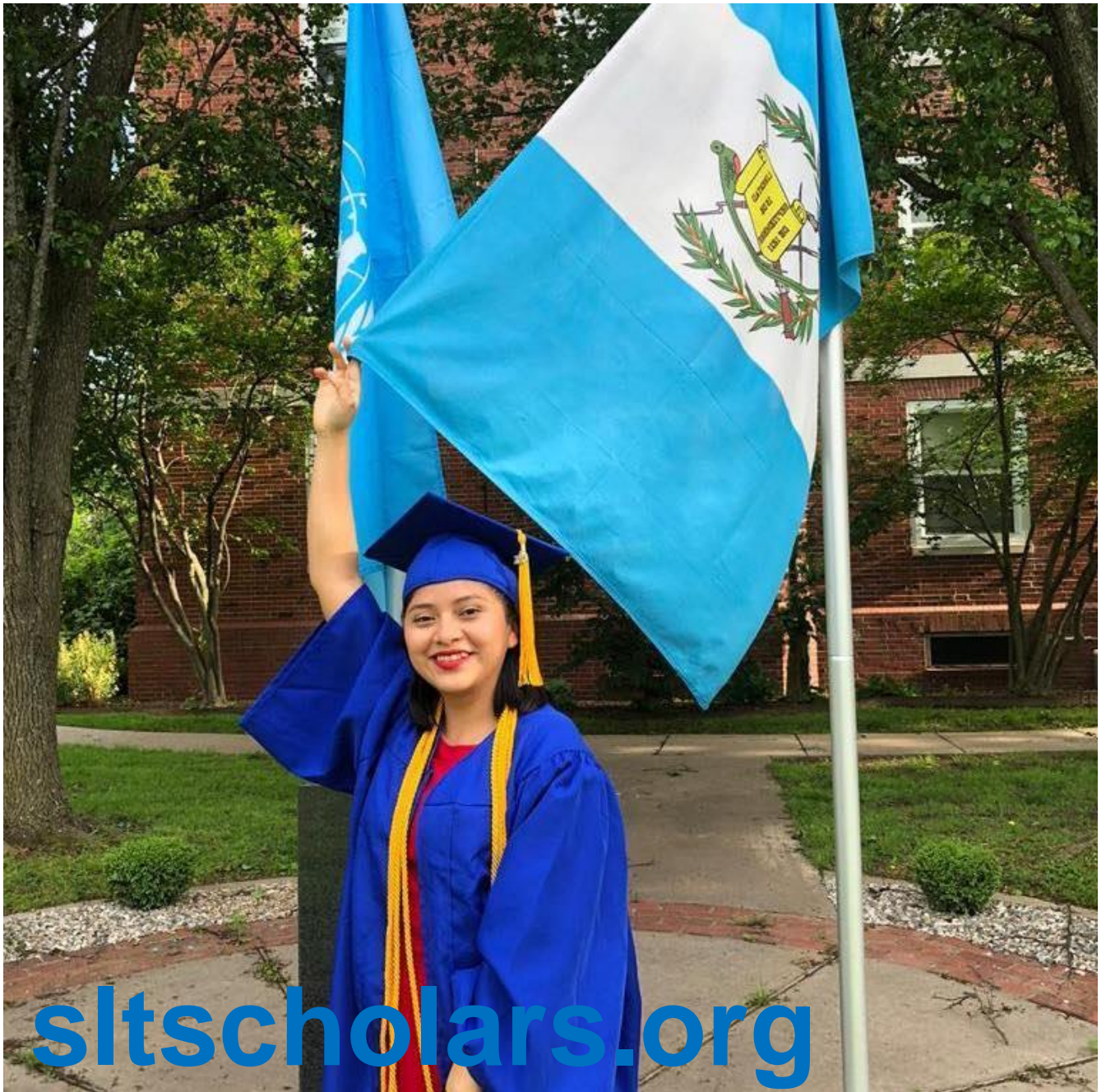
**3-Year Commitment:** Sponsors are asked to make a 3-year commitment to a student to support him or her through junior high school. Renewal reminders will be emailed in the fall when your annual payment is due.

We gladly accept donations for program-level student activities and administrative support of our program. Your help enables us to keep our administrative costs exceptionally low.

**Change of Address:** If your email or mailing address changes, please notify us at [sltscholars@gmail.com](mailto:sltscholars@gmail.com) with your new and old addresses.







## San Lucas Tolimán Scholars

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