



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.

Our primary purpose continues to be to help families keep their children in school so that these young people have options for a better life for themselves and their families.

The 2021 school year has been another year of remote/distance learning. Teachers learned to teach better using this method and students and their families figured out how to learn in this way. Our students are eagerly looking forward to the time they can return to the classroom – to see their friends, their teachers, and to learn together. Some classroom education is expected when classes resume in 2022.

We are grateful for your many donations this year which allowed us to continue providing additional support to our families as they struggled with COVID-19. We used those donations to purchase corn for our students' families and teachers. It felt good to be able to put tortillas on their tables.

### In Review

- 1,036 students received sponsorships: 621 to attend junior high, 391 to attend high school, and 24 to attend university programs.
- With several generous donations, SLT Scholars was able to help the IMED school purchase a parcel of land adjacent to their property. When construction is completed, the IMED will expand its capacity by 12 classrooms and reduce class size from 60 to 45! The IMED school building houses junior high classes in the mornings and the ENCAR high school classes in the afternoons. 451 SLT scholars study here!
- 71,400 pounds of corn were distributed to 550 families to help them survive as COVID-19 struck their community, severely impacting the economy in San Lucas.

In this annual report, you will hear the success stories of 4 of our scholarship recipients. They are all grateful to Dennis for encouraging them to apply for a scholarship and to you as sponsors for giving them a chance.

And lastly, this year has been a year of reflection on the life of Dennis Evans who dedicated the last 20 years of his life to this community. Dennis was a kind and sensitive man who cared so deeply for children who didn't have enough to eat, or shoes for their feet, or an opportunity to get an education, that he started SLT Scholars to help as many as he could, never dreaming how much the organization would grow or how many young lives he would change.

## Board of Directors

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

**David Osgood,**  
**Ph.D.**  
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**Judy Osgood**  
Director

**Jan Tetzlaff**  
Director and Secretary

## Guatemala Operations

**Rita Chajil de Sicay**  
Program Director

**Alberta Menchu**  
Program Administrator

# San Lucas Tolimán Scholars

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## Vivian Melina

Vivian Melina is 24 years old and received scholarships for 6 years from 2011-2016.

She graduated as a bookkeeper which opened many doors of opportunities. Vivian Melina has worked in several institutions in the capital city and is currently employed in a tailor shop in San Lucas as a secretary, and sales and customer service assistant.

Vivian says:

“I am very grateful to the SLT Scholars scholarship program because I received great support in my education. My family also benefited because the little economic income they earned was used for the needs of her family.

The moment I learned that I was awarded a scholarship, it was a great motivation for me, to continue studying and at the same time it was a challenge because I knew that there was someone who trusted me. I thank God that I managed to achieve this academic level that offers me better living conditions. Thank you SLT Scholars!”



## Gerson Josue

Gerson Josue is 23 years old and received scholarships for 6 years from 2012-2017.

After graduating as a bookkeeper, Gerson’s education gave him the opportunity to expand his job possibilities. Gerson currently works in a clothing company as an operator of industrial sewing machines and computerized embroidery machines and has a better salary than his father.

Gerson says:

“Without the SLT Scholars scholarship program I would not have managed to graduate and would not have my current job. My job choices would have been significantly fewer with a lower salary. My parents did not have the economic resources for my education; their goal was only to give me a 6th grade education. Thanks to SLT Scholars, I am now a professional!”



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## **Karin Andrea**

Karin Andrea was a scholarship recipient of the SLT Scholars program from 2010-2016.

Currently Karin works for a Guatemalan financial institution, the second most profitable institution in the Central America region. She started working in customer service, then held the position of business manager. Based on her performance, she now holds the position of Interim Manager of the agency. In addition, she also serves as administrative assistant of the region in that financial institution. Currently she is studying in a master's program in Banking and Financial Institutions Management to earn a degree in Public Accounting and Auditing at the Pan-American University of Guatemala. This whole process was thanks to the support of the SLT Scholars scholarship program, especially Br. Dennis Evans, Mike my sponsor from 2011-2013, and Don Billy from 2014-2016.

Karin Andrea says:

"I encourage sponsors who are part of this program to continue your support of the youth of San Lucas. There are many young people like me, who wish to study to improve their lives. And to those who wish to become a sponsor, I urge you to join us in helping us change the lives of several young people who do not have the necessary resources to continue their studies. I thank you for your support on behalf of the entire student population of San Lucas Tolimán. God bless you!"

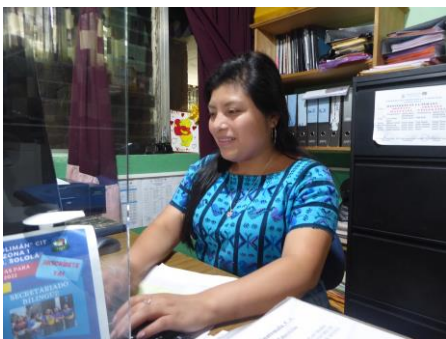
## **Ada Rubí**

Ada Rubí is 24 years old and received scholarships for 6 years from 2011-2016.

Having graduated as a Teacher of Early Childhood Education, Ada is now in the last year of her degree in Pedagogy and Human Rights at the university. She has worked in several schools in San Lucas Tolimán. Currently she works at the Colegio Integral Tolimán (CIT) school - from Monday to Friday as an Administration Assistant and weekends as a teacher of Social Sciences and Research Techniques.

Ada Rubí says:

"I am happy and very grateful to the SLT Scholars scholarship program because all I have achieved now is thanks to SLT Scholars, who gave me the opportunity to continue school, and for having trusted me. Sadly, in our country women have very few opportunities to excel. Now I can say that I have a decent job and the benefit obtained is not only for me but my whole family as well. Thank you SLT Scholars!"



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## Financials

Statement of Financial Position Data*	2021	2020
<b>Assets</b>	\$1,070	\$3,486
<b>Liabilities</b>	\$0	\$0
<b>Net Assets</b>	\$1,070	\$3,486

Statement of Activity Data**		
<b>Support and Revenues</b>		
Donations	\$407,634	\$415,579
<b>Total Support and Revenues</b>	\$407,634	\$415,579
<b>Expenditures</b>		
Program Operation Expenses	\$459,830***	\$210,155
General and Administrative Expenses	\$2,473	\$2,609
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	\$462,303	\$225,264
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	-\$54,669	\$190,314

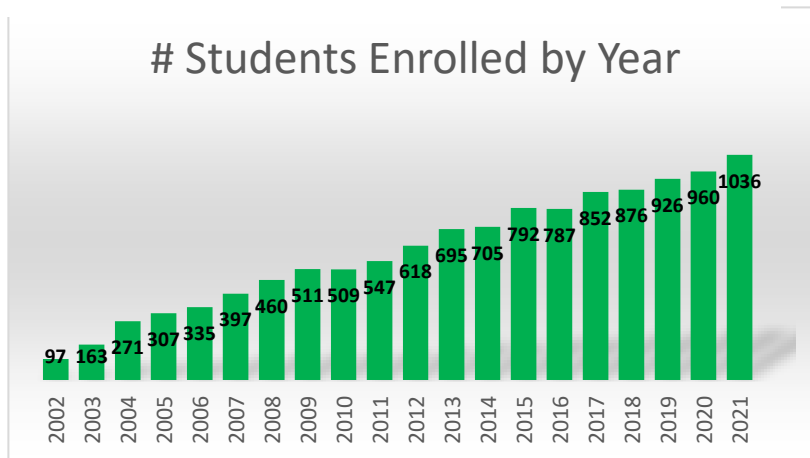
- \*US Operations – These totals represent the money available for US Operations.
- \*\* Guatemala Operations – These totals represent money donated and amount sent to Guatemala for student scholarships and schools.
- \*\*\*Includes donations for scholarships and support for the schools in which our students study. The donations include support for computers and textbooks and a one-time program service to help the IMED school expand the number of classrooms. Many of these donations were received in 2020, but not expended until 2021.
- SLT Scholars fiscal year is August 2020 through July 2021. This annual report is for fiscal year 2020 which supports the 2021 Guatemala school year.
- The change in Net Assets balance at fiscal year-end is the result of timing differences between receipt of donations and payment of scholarship expenses.

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.

Donations help to pay administrative expenses.

## SLT Scholars Annual Growth



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## In Honor and Remembrance of Dennis Evans Founder of San Lucas Tolimán Scholars

The SLT Scholars program had humble beginnings started by a humble man – helping the poorest of the poor with basic necessities. Within a few years of this beginning, Dennis recognized that what was really needed was support so that children completing 6th grade could continue to junior high school. As Dennis will have told you, school in Guatemala is “free” through 6th grade and any further education is fee-paying.

Over and over, he gave what he had, denying himself even small luxuries and sometimes needed medical care so he could do more to provide a better future through education for the underprivileged good students in San Lucas and many of the nearby villages.

Dennis founded this program in 2002 with 97 students. We have grown to more than 1,000! Dennis never said no to adding more students because the need was great and continues to be great.

Dennis was a leader in San Lucas’s education community. School directors, administrators, and teachers, as well as local municipal officials respected and appreciated him for the good work he did.

And then there are the students and their families who in expressing their grief and their love for Dennis, voiced their concern that the program would end without him. It was a privilege to reassure parents, students, and schools that we would continue well under the leadership of Rita, whom Dennis very wisely selected as his partner in this program.

For those of you fortunate enough to have traveled to San Lucas and met Dennis, you will know how proud he was of each graduate of the program – whether they were graduating from junior high, high school, or university. Every year of education is knowledge for these young people to have a better life than their parents.

Dennis cultivated a beautiful garden – his backyard was an oasis of serenity. He loved to entertain visitors with evening bonfires – serving appetizers, pizza, and assorted beverages. He had a love of chocolates, rum and Pepsi, orange juice, pizza, hamburgers, and coffee (the best in the world). He loved his cats and dogs.

A note from Rita - He loved to rise early and walk to the park at 6:00 in the morning to the center of town to see the students arriving at the IMED school. The energy of these young people motivated him to keep going – continuing the fight, even in poor health – so that these young people could have a more dignified life, better than that of their parents.

Dennis would like you to remember him as a person who bet on education as one of the greatest ways to fight poverty.

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## How to Sponsor an SLT Scholars Student

**Step 1:** Email [rita.sltscholars@gmail.com](mailto:rita.sltscholars@gmail.com) (Rita Chajil, Guatemala Program Director) and [sltscholars@mail.com](mailto:sltscholars@mail.com) (Julie Marcotte, US Executive Director) 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. For PayPal (debit/credit card), we request an additional \$5 per student to cover the PayPal transaction fee using 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 and Julie Marcotte.

**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 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@mail.com](mailto:sltscholars@mail.com) with your new and old addresses.



*San Lucas Tolimán Scholars is a non-profit organization exempt from income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code. A letter acknowledging your donation will be sent to you in January of the year following your donation.*



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