



San Lucas Tolimán Scholars
ANNUAL REPORT

From the Board of Directors

Education is the focus of SLT Scholars. Education provides for better jobs that are more meaningful and higher paying; better health comes with education on good nutrition and available social services; and better citizenship is the key to developing community leaders, promoting community understanding, and to individuals understanding their rights as citizens.

As members of the Board of Directors we are grateful to the many sponsors whose financial support enabled 1,037 scholars to remain in school. Sponsored students included:

- 641 in junior high school
- 373 in high school
- 23 in university

One third of our SLT Scholars students graduated in 2022 despite continuing interruptions due to the worldwide COVID pandemic:

- 200 from junior high school
- 132 from high school
- 3 from university

Program Director Rita Chajil represented SLT Scholars at each of the graduations. Many of our scholars carried flags and were escorts during the ceremonies in recognition of their status as distinguished students.

The 2022 school year saw more classroom attendance with face-to-face instruction, as well as student social life and collaboration between scholars and teachers. In addition to providing school tuition and supplies, SLT Scholars helped with internet services when classroom instruction was virtual and provided some computers for in-classroom work.

Cultural celebrations returned to San Lucas Tolimán after a two-year hiatus due to COVID. In September, Guatemala Independence Day brought people together for parades and competitions. SLT Scholars founder Dennis Evans was remembered with a poetry competition honoring him during the Floral Games, part of the celebration of the town's patron saint the Apostle St. Luke the Evangelist.

Collaboration among sponsors, the leadership in Guatemala of Program Director Rita Chajil, and the students themselves give us great hope for the continuing success of SLT Scholars.

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Regina

Regina is 30 years old and is originally from Pampojilá, one of the surrounding communities of San Lucas Tolimán. Regina traveled every day by pick-up truck to San Lucas for her schooling – 3 years in the IMED school and 3 years in the ENCAR school, studying to become a bookkeeper. She was part of our program from 2006-2011.

In 2020 Regina graduated from the University of San Carlos as a teacher in Communications and Language; she is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in School Administration at the same university in addition to being employed in the school in her home community of Pampojilá as secretary and bookkeeper.

Regina says: "Thank you to everyone who works for and seeks to support this program which provides support for youth in need. I am infinitely grateful to sponsors who trusted Dennis Evans and the SLT Scholars scholarship program allowing many young people to fulfill their dreams for a better quality of life. Thank you SLT Scholars for being a hope for many young people!!"

Franklin

Franklin is an electrician and was in the SLT Scholars program for 3 years in junior high school. After graduating, he found a job in Chimaltenango – a larger city between San Lucas and Guatemala City – where he studied to become an electrician.

Today Franklin owns his own electrical service company called "Electrical Services – The Shaddai". He is his own boss and has several young men working for him. This year he decided to study to become a solar energy technician to be up to date with technology.

Franklin writes: "If I hadn't received a scholarship from SLT Scholars, I don't know what my life would be like now. My father abandoned my family, and my mother and did not earn enough money to send me to school after 6th grade."

I want to say, "thank you to all the sponsors who contribute to the SLT Scholars program, as you have helped many families so that we could realize our dream of being able to study and be professionals."

I thank you from the bottom of my heart for the support you continue to provide. The economic situation is very difficult. It is a great help that families receive. I am sure students will have a better future, and all because you make it possible.

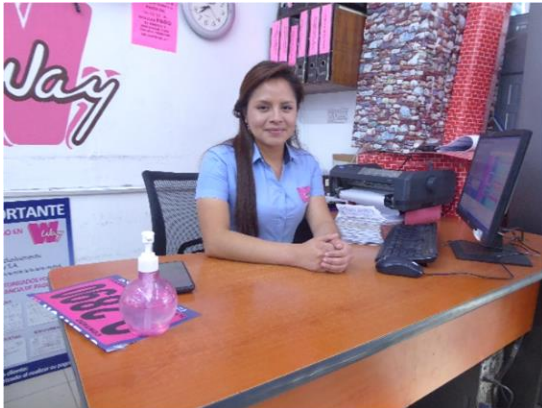
Thank you very much and God bless all those who are involved in the SLT Scholars Program!!



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Rosalina

Rosalina is 26 years and is from Finca Pampojilá, a community near San Lucas Tolimán. She received scholarships in 2010-2015.

Rosalina comes from a family of very limited resources and says that she would not have achieved her dream of becoming a professional if it were not for the scholarship she received from SLT Scholars.

She now works as a Credit and Sales Executive at Empresa Agencias Way – a large national chain that sells furniture and appliances.

“Thanks to the support I received” Rosalina said, “I was able to graduate from high school with a degree which got me a job. I remain very grateful to all the sponsors for the opportunity they give many young people to continue studying so they can graduate with a professional career. We know that the economy in our environment is very poor and jobs and resources are scarce. These are obstacles for many students.”

“May God bless you greatly and it is my hope that you will continue your support of young people in need. Thank you for all your support of the SLT Scholars program!!”

Myra

Myra is a bookkeeper and will be earning a bachelor's degree in School Administration this year. She received scholarships from 2002-2007.

Myra says: “The SLT Scholars scholarship program gave many students a great opportunity. Unfortunately, the economy in our communities is very poor coupled with the taboo that women should not study, that their place was in the home.

The SLT Scholars scholarships motivated us to continue studying and to become professionals. Thanks to my scholarship, I have had several job opportunities and I am proud of what I have achieved.

I was part of the SLT Scholars program from junior high school through high school. I was able to get a job and earn money while I continued studying at the university. I am the secretary and bookkeeper of the Nueva Vida school.

San Lucas Tolimán Scholars is the light of hope to achieve success of many Luqueños (the people of San Lucas), a ladder to move forward. I have managed to become someone important – for my family, for my community, and now for young people.

To all the sponsors of the program I want to say, first of all, I thank God for all of you. Do not doubt the value of your donation. Dennis Evans, Rita Chajil, and SLT Scholars always bet on education because they believe that education is a source of development in San Lucas.”



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Meet Rita Chajil Yoxón

San Lucas Tolimán Scholars Program Director

I am Rita Chajil Yoxón. I am an indigenous Mayan woman who speaks Spanish and Kaqchikel languages. I am married and have 4 wonderful children: Emmanuel is 19 years old, Pamela is 15, Itzayana is 8 (her name means Gift of God in Maya), and Diego is 5. My husband Manuel is a wonderful supporter and collaborator in this program.

I studied in high school to become a teacher and then I studied at San Carlos University and received a degree in Pedagogy and School Administration in 2014. I continued my education and in 2022 I earned a master's degree in Social Work from Atlantic International University.

I started my teaching career in 2002 when I taught pre-school aged children for 1 year. In 2003 I started teaching junior high school at the Pavarotti School which is sponsored by the Rigoberta Menchú Foundation and taught there for 12 years. This is where I met Dennis Evans and learned of his wonderful program. I started working with Dennis as a volunteer organizing the letters of the scholars who studied at the Pavarotti School. I also worked as a junior high school teacher in the INEB, which is a public school, from 2010 to 2017. In both schools I taught Social Sciences, Mayan Language Kaqchikel, Productivity and Development (Family and Consumer Sciences / Home Economics), and some computer courses. A note: it is common that teachers will hold 2 teaching positions – teaching in the morning at one school and in the afternoon at another.

In 2014 I resigned my position at the Pavarotti School and Dennis immediately offered me a position in SLT Scholars program as his assistant. My role and this program continue to be one of the best jobs I have had because it is very rewarding and satisfying to work with and for my community, especially to be the means for many children to continue studying.

With my role in SLT Scholars I help many families - especially women, mothers, some grandmothers, sisters, aunts, and the students - to support them in their emotional well-being. Many talk with me about their problems. In our environment it is not common to seek professional help. God and this program have given me the opportunity to listen to these women (and in a few cases men). I try to advise them that we must always seek out peace



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Rita Chajil Yoxón

San Lucas Tolimán Scholar Program Director

and happiness, and that everything we do, we do with great passion, dedication, and love. If a man and a woman are happy with where they are and what they do, surely, they will transmit happiness and peace to those around them, meaning their families. This happiness and peace then spread to those who work closely with us and to everyone else around us.

My main objective for leading this program is to give young people the opportunity for a better future, a more dignified and better paying job.

Every grade that a student completes is a great success for us. Dennis had and I maintain the idea that educated young people will offer better living conditions for their families in the future.

I volunteer with several organizations in community welfare, giving talks on Human Rights, Women's Health, and the Prevention of Domestic Violence. I am part of a teaching directive organizing activities in the community.

In addition to my professional work, I am a mother and I support my children in their development, instilling in them values and the beautiful gift of knowledge, supporting them to continue studying, all in the company and help of my husband.

I am an example for others that women are capable and intelligent when given the opportunity. I am very grateful to my parents for having given me the opportunity to study and trusted me as a woman, because although in our environment there is still a lot of machismo, women are the most vulnerable in this environment. Women are denied the opportunity to study and prepare as professionals. Our program – SLT Scholars – has changed many lives. Many girls have hoped for and have waited for the opportunity to be able to continue with school.

Thank you to all our sponsors and donors for your great support and trust; without you everything else would not be possible.

God bless you!

Rita

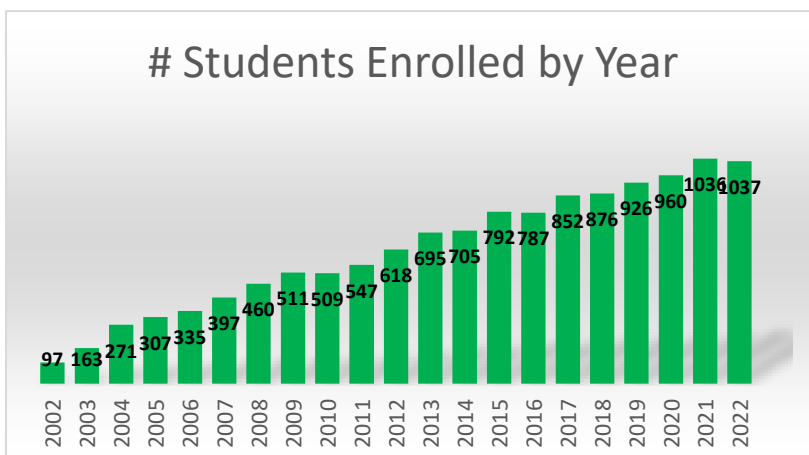
Financials

Statement of Financial Position Data*	2022	2021
Assets	\$21,986	\$1,070
Liabilities	\$0	\$0
Net Assets	\$21,986	\$1,070

Statement of Activity Data**		
Support and Revenues		
Donations	\$285,047	\$407,634
Total Support and Revenues	\$285,047	\$407,634
Expenditures		
Program Operation Expenses	\$277,108	\$459,830***
General and Administrative Expenses	\$2,807	\$2,473
Total Expenditures	\$274,301	\$462,303
Change in Net Assets	-\$7,939	-\$54,669

- SLT Scholars fiscal year is August 2021 through July 2022. This annual report is for fiscal year 2021 which supports the 2022 Guatemala school year.
- *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 one-time donations to help the IMED/ENCAR schools expand the number of classrooms and for computers and textbooks.
- 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 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.

Designated donations help to pay administrative expenses.

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How to Sponsor an SLT Scholars Student

Step 1: Email rita.sltscholars@gmail.com (Rita Chajil, Guatemala Program Director) and 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 email 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. The amount for scholarships varies based on grade and course of study. The amount for students in junior high school is \$260/year. The amount for high school students varies. Please ask Rita or Julie for the amount for your students. Mail your check for payable to "SLT Scholars" and mail to: SLT Scholars, 34 Hilltop Lane, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55116-2720. You will receive an email confirmation for your donation. For [PayPal](#) donations, we request an additional \$5 per student to cover the PayPal transaction fee.

Your annual donation covers enrollment, tuition, and some related school expenses – uniform, shoes, computing activities, and school supplies. Parents are responsible for supplemental 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. Should you student continue to high school, you will have the opportunity to continue your support. Renewal reminders are emailed late fall.

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 Email Address: If your email address changes, please notify us at sltscholars@mail.com.

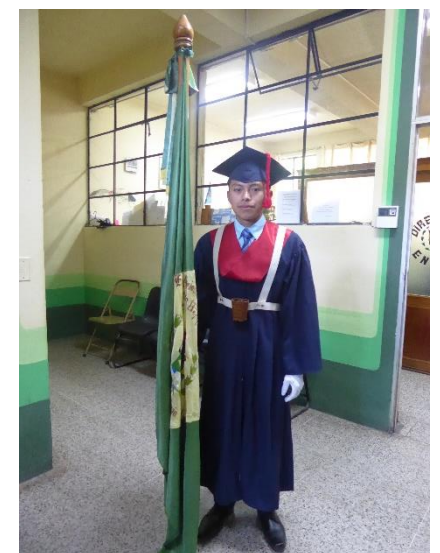


San Lucas Tolimán Scholars is a non-profit organization exempt from income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code. A letter acknowledging your donation will be sent to you in January of the year following your donation.

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