

SLT Scholars
May 2026 Newsletter

Happy Spring!

As the season shifts and the first greens and early blooms return, I'm reminded how renewal and hope often begin quietly — just as the impact of your generosity grows quietly but powerfully in the lives of students in San Lucas Tolimán.

I'm delighted to share our 2025 Annual Report with you and highlight all that you make possible.

I am especially proud to introduce you to Fernando Arturo, our featured scholar. When I met him in February, I saw firsthand the impact of your support — a poised, dedicated young professional who represents both his culture and his community with pride. He is exactly the kind of young leader whose potential you helped unlock through your generosity.

Thank you for being a part of our community.

Julie Marcotte
Executive Director
SLT Scholars

A Message from Rita Chajil, Guatemala Executive Director

Dear Sponsors and Friends,

Every step forward in our program is rooted in your generosity. Over the past months, I've met with school directors across San Lucas Tolimán to review progress and identify new opportunities for growth. In every meeting, they express deep gratitude — not only for the program, but for you, the donors who make it possible.

The Guatemalan Department of Education has also shared its appreciation for the profound impact your support has on children and youth in our community. I always make sure they know that behind every achievement stands a dedicated board and a community of donors whose commitment fuels this work. We are a united team, working with a generous heart to transform lives through education.

During my recent school visits, I've seen firsthand the challenges our students face. Economic hardship continues to intensify. Many students must leave school to work and help support their families; others stay home to care for younger siblings while their mothers travel long distances for employment. These pressures — financial, emotional, and social — often make it difficult for students to stay in school.

As I have seen in previous years, about 1.5% of our students have not returned to classes after the Easter break. This pattern is common after the coffee harvest, when temporary work becomes available. Once students begin earning income, some do not return to school. We are

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working closely with families, teachers, and school administrators to help these students return to the classroom.

Your contributions directly help us intervene — providing encouragement, resources, and stability so students can continue their education despite overwhelming obstacles.

A Transformative Gift: 76 New Computers - Thanks to the Dennis Evans Legacy Society, we delivered 76 computers to nine schools where our students are enrolled. This is more than a donation — it is an investment in opportunity and a tribute to our founder's life's work.

The arrival of the computers was celebrated with joy. Educational authorities, parent committees, and families gathered to express their gratitude. In several communities, families organized cultural events with traditional dances and performances to honor this gift. These moments reflect the deep appreciation felt throughout San Lucas Tolimán for the donors who believe in their children's future.

Because of you, students who once faced limited options now have access to education, technology, and hope. Your support continues to be a light for families striving for a future filled with dignity and opportunity.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Rita Chajil