

SLT Scholars
March 2025 Newsletter

Dear Sponsors and Friends,

I can't believe that spring will be here next week! Where has the start of the year gone?!

I am happy to tell you that we have sponsors for 138 7th graders – the 120 who were on our promised list and 18 from the waiting list. Thank you!

I invite you to read our 2024 Annual Report and learn about the entrepreneurial spirit of one of our graduates – Yenifer Abigail.

Your support can be truly transformative, opening the door to life-changing opportunities for a deserving student. Each sponsorship provides the resources and encouragement they need to overcome challenges, achieve their dreams, and reach their full potential. Together, we have the power to turn aspirations into achievements and to ensure that every student waiting for support has the opportunity to thrive.

Julie Marcotte

Executive Director
SLT Scholars

And now, Rita's message:

Dear Friends and Sponsors of this wonderful SLT Scholars Program,

I am sending you an affectionate greeting and sincere thanks for your generous support of our program. It is a privilege to greet you again with my best wishes for each of you.

The following is a summary of our program activities and projects carried out since my last message to you.

In the final months of 2024, our culture and traditions were showcased as we celebrated our holidays. We celebrated our patron saint – San Lucas (Saint Luke) in October, the Day of the Dead and All Saints Day in November, and the celebrations of Christmas and New Years. From the first days of December, the park and many streets of San Lucas Tolimán become very colorful, full of lights and beautiful decorations. Each of our celebrations also are represented by culinary art, with exquisite dishes that are prepared according to the date and the celebration. Preparations for Holy Week have already begun with some activities organized by various groups of the Catholic Church and other cultural groups.

The 2025 school year is in full swing. As in the past several years, public and private schools have staggered school calendars – private schools began in January and will end in October and public schools started in February and end in November. This means 4 weeks of graduation ceremonies!

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The students were very eager to start school, continue learning, and participate in various school activities. I see our youth full of energy and dynamism, and this spirit is contagious. In high school we have students in different specialties, such as pre-school teachers, bookkeepers, mechanics, information technology students, medical assistants, nurses, bilingual secretaries, and hair stylists and barbers.

The school year started with inauguration ceremonies which included a special event in which municipal and educational authorities participated. In all high schools, the school principal sends me a very special invitation as a representative of the SLT Scholars Scholarship program. I feel very privileged to receive these invitations. I always extend a greeting from you as sponsors of the program. It is always very nice to be invited to these schools for meetings with the directors and take part in discussion on how to improve the education our youth receives. I am always thanked with very nice words about our program, which has been changing the lives of so many over the past 2.5 decades. In his speech, the Supervisor of Education of San Lucas always mentions our program as a magnificent development program for the people of San Lucas Tolimán. All this would not be possible without each of your donations, the leadership of Julie Marcotte as Executive Director, and the Board of Directors.

Several sponsors have visited San Lucas and while here meet with their students, usually at a restaurant for light refreshments. Please let me know if you will be in San Lucas so I can arrange for you to meet your scholars. This is extraordinarily special for scholars to meet their sponsors.

From our program's operations perspective, parents have registered their children and I then confirmed their enrollment. Students then received vouchers for uniforms and school supplies and selected their shoes. Students have received their shoes (school shoes and tennis shoes) and backpacks so they could start the school year well. I have a regular schedule for visiting each of the schools in which we have students. My presence shows our engagement and the value of education.

Thank you for your support of our program. We continue to be a light of hope in many children and families, so that in the future they will have a more dignified life.

Rita Chajil
Program Director