



San Lucas Tolimán Scholars  
ANNUAL REPORT

# San Lucas Tolimán Scholars

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

# 2024

## From the Board of Directors

Guatemalan children are required to attend school only through the 6th grade. To continue studying in junior and senior high school means a financial commitment beyond what many San Lucas Tolimán families can provide. The San Lucas Tolimán Scholars program provides scholarships to students of limited financial means who have demonstrated academic achievement to continue their education.

We are grateful to our sponsors whose generous financial donations allowed 960 students to remain in school in 2024. Our primary purpose is to give young people the opportunity to study for 3 more years and attend junior high school. We are very pleased when so many junior high school graduates continue to high school to learn skills for their career. And we are particularly proud of our 30 scholars studying in university-level programs. In 2024 we celebrated 339 graduates – 174 scholars graduated from junior high school, 162 graduated from high school, and 3 graduated from university – because of your support.

“Our program helps young people to have a better life and earn more dignified jobs,” reports Rita Chajil, Guatemala Program Director.

The opportunities for learning flow both ways. Scholars write letters to their sponsors and report on their progress in school, as well as tell of life in a small mountainous Guatemalan town perched on the shores of a magnificent lake. Reports of coffee harvest, Independence Day parades, religious celebrations, and graduation ceremonies add to our understanding of life in Guatemala.

As members of the SLT Scholars Board of Directors we are committed to working alongside the San Lucas Tolimán community to improve the lives of young people. Thank you again for your support.

### Board of Directors

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**Cindy Swinnerton**  
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### Guatemala Operations

**Rita Chajil**  
Program Director

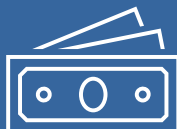
**Alberta Menchú**  
Program Administrator



960 students



339 jr. high & high school graduates & 3 university graduates



\$301K raised for scholarships

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## Yenifer Abigail

Yenifer Abigail was an SLT Scholars scholar for 6 years. Yeni graduated from high school as a bookkeeper in 2014. After graduation, she moved to Guatemala City and worked as a bookkeeper and continued her studies at the university level earning a degree in Public Accounting and Auditing. She also completed 1 year of study in a Master's in Human Talent Management program.

Yeni returned to San Lucas with an entrepreneurial vision – to own a gym focused on women. She trained to become a trainer, and in January 2025 she opened her own gym! Many women still feel self-conscious or shy about doing exercises in the company of men. Yeni returned to San Lucas to change this with her new gym.

From Yeni - Opening a Door to Success

I remember perfectly when Dennis Evans awarded me a scholarship to study in junior high school. It was a great blessing to me and my parents. I graduated from high school with honors, and this was the bridge to becoming the professional I am today. While studying at university, I became interested in sports, specifically in strength training. I took courses in personal physical training. My interest and training positioned me to open my own gym! My business is off to a quick and good start. Many people have visited my gym, and I have been able to help them with strength training and sports.

I look back and see my experiential and professional journey, and this fills me with immense joy and pride.

Infinite thanks to SLT Scholars for its great work for our people. My people live in financial scarcity. Despite these challenges, because of the support of SLT Scholars, young people have developed their talents. Thousands of young people have gotten ahead thanks to the support you have provided.

You cannot imagine how your gifts of help live in thousands of hearts. God bless each one of you. You have my admiration and respect for everything you do for our youth.

I will always give my best and I hope to be an inspiration to the young people of San Lucas and also to you.

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.

## 2023 Fiscal Year

(supports the 2024 school year)

Revenue: \$405,703\*

Expenses: \$337,654

\* includes donations of \$65,298 for the Dennis Evans Legacy Society

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[sltscholars.org](http://sltscholars.org)

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