

**SLT Scholars**  
**April 2024 Newsletter**

Hello everyone!

I hope this newsletter finds you and your family well and that spring has sprung.

Our annual report for the 2023 school year is on our web site here: [2023 SLT Scholars Annual Report](#). I encourage you to read about Claudia Asucely and her professional career thanks to her SLT Scholars scholarships. She is inspiring!

**Julie**

And now, enjoy Rita's update!

Dear Sponsors and Friends –

I am sending warm greetings and sincere thanks for your generous support of our program. It is an honor to greet you again with my best wishes to each of you.

The 2024 school year started in a very organized manner. The beginning of classes were celebrated with inaugurations, special events in which municipal and educational authorities participated. The San Lucas Supervisor of Education announced that schools can return to pre-COVID activities and schedules, meaning the resumption of social, cultural, and sports events in each school. As in the last 3 years, classes started in January for private schools and in February for public schools.

All schools held different activities to help motivate students to discover and improve their skills and talents in the following spaces:

- Cultural – dances and songs
- Sports – soccer, basketball, and a marathon
- Social – celebrations of special dates, such as Valentine's Day, anniversary celebrations, and social dances

The students are so animated as they participate in these activities that shouts of excitement are heard from long distances.

The start of the school year kept me and Alberta very busy enrolling students, making school payments, distributing vouchers that students exchange for school supplies and uniforms, and ordering and distributing school shoes, tennis shoes, and backpacks.

As Executive Director of SLT Scholars in Guatemala, I have participated in several meetings with the school directors about the education processes and what improvements to implement. All directors have shown their appreciation of our program and the collaborative nature in which we work together for the betterment of the young people in our community through education. This year I have received several invitations from different schools and other education organizations. This tells me that our program is very important and is contributing a lot to San Lucas Tolimán.

In the first week of March, Geoff Evans, brother of Dennis Evans, donated a marimba and other musical instruments to the IMED school in memory of Dennis and on behalf of SLT Scholars. It was

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a wonderful gift. The IMED has had a special interest in teaching marimba music and has longed for their own instrument.

Also new is that the IMED school has a new director. Its outgoing director, Juan Juárez, who was there from its beginnings through the celebration of its 50th anniversary has fallen ill in recent months. He was in the school as long as he felt capable of leading this institution. In one of his farewells, he received the gift of the marimba. This brought him joy and he thanked me deeply.

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

***Rita Chajil***