

*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has." Margaret Mead.*

## **GOOD BYE, APRIL....HELLO, MAY!**

It's what we do best....it's our Mission....it's Gilroy Foundation's Annual Meeting and Charitable Grants Presentation!

On Wednesday, April 17, more than 130 donors, grant recipients and friends of Gilroy Foundation gathered in the upstairs Banquet Room of Old City Hall Restaurant to accept their checks-from Donor Advised Funds, Designated Funds and Competitive Grants.

\$338,000 was awarded that night and an additional \$513,000 is earmarked for scholarships that will be awarded to high school seniors in May, bringing this year's award total to over \$850,000!

Once again, we want to thank our gracious hosts for the evening, Fran and Bobby Beaudet, owners of Old City Hall Restaurant, for their very generous hospitality.

For a complete listing of grants, visit Gilroy Foundation [website](#).



## **GILROY FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS AND AWARDS FROM THE DESK OF ED DONNA PRAY**

A [Scholarship](#) for a graduating high school senior means so much, yet in different ways.

First, winning a scholarship gives that senior a feeling of accomplishment that someone recognizes their hard work in academics, extracurricular activities and community service.

Sometimes, a scholarship can be life-changing, allowing the student to remove a financial burden - and sometimes making the difference of going to college or not!

In 2019, we had over 700 applications come through the Foundation offices, vying for 82 awards, ranging from \$250 to \$50,000! Because of the number of applicants, we have



increased our Scholarship Selection Committee to four teams of three people each.

We redact all personal information so that our readers are truly reading "anonymously". Readers are given two weeks to read, rate, and get their scores back to our offices. Our staff then averages the scores to come up with the winner(s). Occasionally, there may be a tie, so then that team meets and vote on which applicant would be given the award.

Letters go out to students receiving awards of \$10,000 or more in mid-April. Other scholarships are awarded at the senior awards ceremonies at the our four GUSD high schools. We know how important this work is!

A \$20,000 or \$50,000 scholarship can truly change the path of a student."

Here is what a few of our scholarship readers had to say:

*"One of the reasons I enjoy reading scholarship applications is because it reinforces my belief in the resiliency of young people to overcome tremendous obstacles to achieve academic success."*

*"Wow, the journey this kid has had....INCREDIBLE!" "How amazing that "this" kid can be so resilient. These kids are such hard workers; how can they NOT succeed considering some of their pasts."*

*"Reading scholarships for the first time was such an eye-opening experience for me! To see how active some of these students are in our community with hundreds of service hours, in addition to employment AND keeping up their grades, was heartwarming and inspiring."*

## THERE IS SOMETHING IN THE AIR...

No, not garlic....or pollen....it's the excitement brewing here at the Foundation over an event that has been in the works since August 2018. As Gilroy Foundation moves toward its 40th year, the Board realized how much growth has taken place and how many locals *still* ask....so, *what does Gilroy Foundation do?*

The May 16th "Give Where You Live" Faire, to be held at the Elk's Lodge on the Hill, is designed to **reconnect and update** many who have been with the foundation for a long while and to **educate** those new to the community and draw in our millenials who want to know more.

The evening begins with a PowerPoint history of Gilroy Foundation and is highlighted by a Panel Presentation, moderated by Whitney Pintello with guest panelists. Prior to and following the presentation, guests will enjoy wine and delicious appetizers. Information Tables on the patio will be staffed by Gilroy Foundation Board of Directors and Staff.

Would you like to attend the "Give Where You Live" Faire? Contact Deb Sanchez at [dsanchez@gilroyfoundation.org](mailto:dsanchez@gilroyfoundation.org)

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



Gilroy Foundation is a proud sponsor of Paws in the Park!  
We hope to see you there!



### AMAZON SMILE BENEFITS GILROY FOUNDATION

Did you know that Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to Gilroy Foundation whenever you shop on Amazon! Every little purchase adds up.  
The first step is to register at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and begin every purchase by going first

to AmazonSmile (after a while, Amazon will even remind you!) Same products, same prices, same services.



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