

## THIS SHORT MONTH WAS QUITE LONG!

*Last month's lament was how long January seemed...and--not to be outdone--February seemed to follow suit!*

*Even though there were a few less days this month, Gilroy Foundation made all those others count as our grant readers delved into the important business that they are charged with. Gilroy Foundation received 43 Competitive Grant applications, 3 Richard Hayes \$20,000 grant applications, and 3 Julie Hayes \$20,000 grant applications, totaling requests for \$269,800.*

*The April 17th Annual Meeting and Charitable Giving Presentation is always a highlight of the year as our Boards, donors and grant recipients come together to give and receive grant funding. Stay tuned for the exciting results.*

## A MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DONNA PRAY

Although our 2019 Competitive Grant Cycle closed on January 31, our 2019 Scholarship Cycle is open until March 1 for most of our scholarships, and a few are open longer.

We are delighted to be able to report that from 1999 through 2018, Gilroy Foundation has awarded \$4,216,000 in scholarships to deserving high school, junior college, and college students in the Gilroy Area. This year, we have \$516,000 to award! Sometimes a scholarship can truly change a life!



Did you know.....that all [membership](#) and other cash donations to the Foundation are tracked in order to give you the opportunity of starting your own fund? Many families have made cash gifts over several years, eventually bringing their total donations to the \$10,000 level! Whether your gift is a Silver Membership of \$100 or a Platinum Membership of \$1,000, we keep track of it. When donations reach \$5,000, we'll let you know you're half way to an individual named fund. Your new Fund can be "unrestricted" or "field-of-interest" to support grant requests in our annual Competitive Grant Cycle. Or, you may have a favorite charity you want to support on an ongoing basis with a "designated" fund. Your third choice is a "donor-advised" fund; where you decide each year which charity you want to receive your 5% payout. This is just another opportunity to join our cause and mission..."To establish a legacy of giving, the Gilroy Foundation links charitable gifts from donors to the vital needs of the community."

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW EVENTS COORDINATOR, DEBBI SANCHEZ!



Gilroy Foundation is proud to announce that Debbi Sanchez will be joining us as our new Event Coordinator, starting March 11!

Debbi, a lifelong Gilroy resident, brings a wealth of knowledge in the area of event planning, along with her dedicated involvement with many organizations and causes in our local community.

Debbi joins our Grants & Marketing Coordinator, Roya Wallace, as a 2019 Person to Watch by gmhToday.

Welcome, Debbi! #givewhereyoulive #welcometotheteam

## SOMETHING BIG IS IN THE WORKS AT GILROY FOUNDATION.....

It was a very busy 2018 at the Foundation.

Actually, it all began in October 2017 when we first started to move forward with the revision of our outdated Strategic Plan. As you may or may not know, a "community" foundation should be a LEADER in the community, not just a "piggy bank" for endowments and grant-making.

And, now, as we move into March 2019 and even closer to celebrating 40 years of Gilroy Foundation in our beautiful community, we have cause to celebrate, reflect, review and renew with you all that Gilroy Foundation has to offer!

STAY TUNED.....more to come in April!

## MEETING THE NEW CEO OF SILICON VALLEY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

ED Donna Pray and Development Director Vicki Campanella attended a midday meeting of Network Building with Affiliate Partners from 5 other nearby community foundations.



We had the privilege of meeting and sharing ideas with [SVCF](#) CEO Nicole Taylor, on the job for 8 weeks--she was energized and enthusiastic!

One of the many topics we discussed was making people who live in our communities and work in Silicon Valley aware of how they can "give where you live!"

## MEET JENNIFER SPENO, MEMBER BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Jennifer grew up in Gilroy and attended local schools; she is active in many community organizations including Leadership Gilroy, Gilroy Assistance League, Gilroy Rotary Club, and the Gilroy Garlic Festival where she was President in 2005. Jennifer graduated from San Jose State University with a Bachelors of Science in Accounting and is a Certified Public Accountant. She currently works as the Accounting Manager for Headstart Nursery in Gilroy. Together with her husband Jeff, they have two grown children, Lindsay and Brad. Welcome to

the [Board of Directors](#), Jennifer!

## HAVE YOU EVER LOOKED HERE?

The Gilroy Foundation website contains a wealth of great information!

Pretty much every question you may have about the Foundation-how to start a fund, who are our Ambassadors, what kind of Community projects have we worked on, what do the GF [Financial Statements](#) look like.....you can find it all here: [www.gilroyfoundation.org](http://www.gilroyfoundation.org)

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