

*Did you "ROctober" like WE did here at the Gilroy Foundation?*

*When you wrap up months of planning with an early in the month (October 6th) signature event like "A Day in the Country," it's bound to get the month off to a good start. But that's only a part of what's gone on here this very busy month of October!*

## **BONANZA DAYS 2.0**

Congratulations to Leadership Gilroy Class of 2018, a nonprofit partner of Gilroy Foundation, for reviving a great-spirited community tradition, Bonanza Days! To see the people lining Miller Avenue watching the beautifully constructed floats as they moved toward Miller Park really created a sense of nostalgia and that small town spirit. Gilroy Foundation is proud to have been an "Ace in the Hole Sponsor" for Bonanza Days 2018. *Could this be the start of something big?*

## **COUNTRY CLUB CHARM**

It was a balmy early October evening in the exquisite setting of our local gem, CordeValle, as the sell-out crowd arrived for Gilroy Foundation's signature fundraising event of the year.

Melissa Wark, 2018 Chair, and Events Coordinator Roya Wallace worked with a dedicated committee to serve up a night of delicious fare, lively auctions for 188 delighted attendees. Auctioneer Jayson Stebbins led the spirited bidding on items ranging from group dinners and exquisite wines to decadent desserts and exciting sporting events. Bob and Linda Shimkus were the lucky winners of the Getaway Raffle to beautiful Rosewood Inn of the Anasazi in Santa Fe, New Mexico!

Thank you to our generous sponsors, donors and our energetic Youth Board for your support of this annual event.

*More exciting photos, courtesy of Main Event Media Sponsor gmhToday, may be found on the Gilroy Foundation [website](#).*



## **A GILROY FOUNDATION WELCOME TO OUR NEW NEIGHBORS**

Our City is growing by leaps and bounds and one of our "increased awareness" priorities of the

Foundation is to welcome them all to their new neighborhood and/or their new community!

We have partnered with Gilroy Chamber of Commerce and are including a "Welcome Brochure" in the monthly mailers they send out. Additionally, local realtors who are Ambassadors, Board Members and Emeritus Board members have graciously placed brochures at their desks in their offices.



We want New Neighbors to know about our *"Give Where You Live"* tag line, how they can become members and/or fund donors and what an impact their employer's Matching Gift would make here in the community where they live.

## #GIVING TUESDAY

This global day of giving is fueled by the power of social media and collaboration. Celebrated on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving (November 27) and the widely recognized shopping events of Black Friday and Cyber Monday, #Giving Tuesday kicks off the charitable season, when Gilroy Foundation begins its focus on end-of-year giving.



Follow the link on the Home Page of Gilroy Foundation website and make your donation. You'll read more about this opportunity to give when you receive the Membership Mailing coming your way before the Thanksgiving holiday. Become a Member of Gilroy Foundation with your (minimum) \$100 gift. Or you can make your gift [online](#).

## CONGRATULATIONS TO 2018-19 YOUTH BOARD OFFICERS

Gilroy Foundation Ambassador Kristin Bright reported that "17 dynamic kiddos," members of the GF [Youth Board](#), gathered for a Team Building event to kick off the new year. A blindfolded "trust" exercise was performed, led by Dennis Bright, after which the students enjoyed a yummy pizza dinner at beautiful Bright Ranch.

Following election of officers, the following students will lead the Gilroy Foundation Youth Board in 2018-19:

Jamin Escudero - President - Dr. T.J. Owens Gilroy Early College Academy  
Maana Kolagotla - Vice President - Ascension Solarsano Middle School  
Trevor Davis - Secretary - South Valley Middle School  
Jessica Bright - Social Media Director - Christopher High School  
Senna Kolagotla - Social Media Director - Christopher High School

Youth Board mentors and Board Liaison Sal Tomasello led the meeting. Here's to an outstanding year of growing and learning, Youth Board!



## MEET BOARD OF DIRECTOR PRESIDENT EDWIN DIAZ

As we continue to highlight the members of Gilroy Foundation's [Board of Directors](#), we thank them for their generous service. Through our "monthly shout-out," we acknowledge the work they do with us in addition to the very busy lives they lead. Thank you, Edwin Diaz, for your contributions to Gilroy Foundation!

### *What motivated you to become involved with the Gilroy Foundation?*

As a longtime resident and educator in Gilroy, I became aware of the great work of the Gilroy Foundation years ago. I was involved in the scholarship selection process and attended events where scholarships were awarded to deserving students and grants presented to schools and non-profit organizations. I continue to be amazed by the generosity of community members and the role the Gilroy Foundation serves in connecting those resources to help others in need. So, when the opportunity to serve on the Board of Directors was presented, I was honored to help. Serving on the Board of Directors provides me the opportunity to give back to the community I was raised in and support the great work of the Gilroy Foundation. Since being on the Board I have become more committed to supporting the mission of the Foundation and have a greater understanding of the critical role the Gilroy Foundation serves in improving the quality of life for so many in Gilroy.

### *A "philanthropist" donates time, talent and treasure. In what ways are you philanthropic with other organizations?*

In addition to being a Board Member of the Gilroy Foundation, I have also volunteered for non-profit organizations, schools and help support numerous community causes. Delia, my wife of 42 years, and I look for ways we can donate our time and resources together. We currently volunteer as middle school mentors, are past co-chairs of the Latino Family Fund, and support the Gilroy Blessing Box.

### *What do you enjoy doing in your free time?*

Our "free" time is spent with family. We try to split time with our four grandchildren who live in Santa Cruz and Franklin, Tennessee. We enjoy traveling, hiking, hosting large family gatherings and, every once in a while, just chilling in the backyard.

*"Give Where You Live"*

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