

The year 2020 marks the 40th Anniversary of Gilroy Foundation--a **Ruby** Celebration!

Many thanks to our loyal e-Newsletter readers for staying in touch with us--our recent survey indicated that you find value in the news that we share and the services that Gilroy Foundation provides. So, let's make this year of celebration an opportunity for you to not only stay in touch with us, but to let friends and family know more about Gilroy Foundation.

As our Vision Statement indicates, by engaging all aspects of the community, Gilroy Foundation is the recognized leader in connecting resources to community needs.



Gilroy Foundation Staff (L-R): Roya Wallace, Debbie Russell, ED Donna Pray, Vicki Campanella and Deb Sanchez

Photo credit: [Michael Hawk Photography](#)

GILROY GARLIC FESTIVAL VICTIMS RELIEF FUND UPDATE

Tomorrow, January 31, is the last date for victims of the Garlic Festival tragedy to submit Victim Applications.

The Gilroy Garlic Festival Victims Relief Oversight Committee has been working tirelessly since July 29. It has been a difficult, yet necessary process, and they have done an outstanding job. Countless hours have been spent, emotional encounters have occurred, and important decisions have been made.



Over \$1.9 million has been donated to the Fund, and nearly 90% of it has already been granted to the victims. The Committee will continue to disburse donations, as funds are still arriving, both electronically and by mail.

It has been a journey we would have preferred never to have made, but are proud of what we have accomplished and applaud all those throughout our community and beyond that have partnered with us in so many ways during the process.

Thank you for your support of the Foundation, but mostly, of our community.

MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

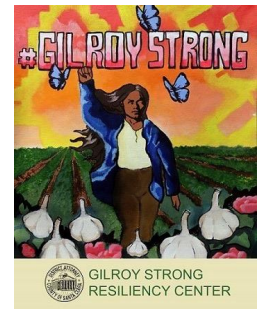
Happy New Year! The year 2020 is a big one for Gilroy Foundation - it marks our 40th anniversary! We will be acknowledging and celebrating all year with special events and enhanced regular events. We will be adding a 40th Anniversary page to our website in the next few weeks, and will be updating it all year with new announcements. We've taken some liberties with our logo to start the year-long celebration off. Celebrating 40 years!

~ Donna Pray

"Give Where You Live"

RESILIENCY CENTER AND LAST DATE TO APPLY FOR VICTIMS RELIEF

The Gilroy Strong Resiliency Center (GSRC) is open to all victims, survivors, first responders and their family members, regardless of immigration status or documentation. Your immigration status will not be shared nor reported to other agencies unless you ask us to share it. We encourage you to call, visit, or email the GSRC if you have any questions. All services are available free of charge. We look forward to helping you. We will be here.



Located in The Neon Exchange, 7365 Monterey Street, Gilroy

Open from 5:30-8:30pm on Tuesday and Thursday evenings

For more information, phone 408-209-8356 or gilroystrong@dao.sccgov.org

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBERS

Lee Blaettler and Vito Mercado have joined the Gilroy Foundation Board of Directors and we invite you to find out a little more about them and their involvement in our local community. We asked them each a few questions:

What motivated you to become involved with Gilroy Foundation?

Lee: After getting married in 2001, I moved back to Gilroy. My husband, John, was President of the Board of Directors of the Foundation. I saw the good work that was being done in our respective hometowns. It was inspiring for me to see so many individuals that were not from Gilroy giving so much of themselves for the betterment of our community, I felt it was important to get involved.

Vito: What motivated me most was the opportunity to be a part of a great team of people who want what is best for our community.

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

Lee: We (John and I) made the decision to "give locally" before it became the Foundation's "motto"! We support St. Joseph's Family Center, Community Solutions, St. Mary Church, Gavilan Foundation, Gilroy Garlic Festival and Gilroy Assistance League. Personally, I have been President of Gilroy Assistance League as well as an active member since 2010. I am a graduate of Leadership Gilroy Class of 2010. Our class project was the Demonstration Garden. I have worked on numerous Day in the Country auctions as an employee and volunteer as well as multiple St. Mary School auction committees.

Vito: As a life-long citizen of Gilroy, it's in our DNA to volunteer and serve with different organizations to help our community thrive. For many years, I have volunteered with the Gilroy Garlic Festival Association, from defrosting squid in Gourmet Alley to President of the Association in 2014. In 2014, I started my involvement with Sister Cities. I currently serve as treasurer of the organization.

What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

Lee: My free time is spent with family. We are sports oriented and attend all of our daughter's athletics as well as our extended families' sports events. I enjoy traveling, camping and reading. We try to stay active...so walk often and usually with our dog Bailey. I love, love, love film...so you can catch me at the movies, especially around Oscar time!

Vito: I enjoy spending time with family and friends, reading, traveling, movies and golfing.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



In late November, letters were mailed to more than 700 listings on our database inviting them to become a member, renew their membership, or add to their fund. We received 63 responses, with membership totaling \$27,799 and \$51,725 added to existing funds for a total of \$79,524. *Thank you for your generous support.*

GRANT CYCLE CLOSES.....SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE

The 2020 Grant Cycle of Gilroy Foundation closes at 5PM on Friday, January 31st. Grants will be awarded at the Annual Meeting and Charitable Giving Presentation on April 22nd.



SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS are online at <https://gilroyfoundation.org/receive/scholarships/>

SAN JOSE SHARKS HOST HERO APPRECIATION NIGHT

At the Monday, January 27th game against the Anaheim Ducks, our San Jose Sharks honored first responders from the Gilroy Garlic Festival tragedy and reported donations of more than \$45,000 from the Sharks Foundation to #Gilroy Strong fundraising efforts for the Gilroy Garlic Festival Victims Relief Fund.

Members of the Oversight Committee were in attendance and it was truly a memorable night of appreciation for the efforts of our first responders and the work of the Oversight Committee who have disbursed over \$1.5 Million to victims since the July 28 tragedy.



Oversight Committee members join First Responders for a "team" photo!

"Give Where You Live"

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