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## APRIL DAZE!

### A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



As a result of the Coronavirus pandemic, we have all been learning new vocabulary terms: social distancing, #flattenthecurve, quarantine, community spread and so many more. We are all adapting in our own way--in our homes, communities, businesses and in our world.

The staff at Gilroy Foundation is at home, but still working together to keep the work of GF moving forward and keep you informed, just as we did a few months ago while dealing with the aftermath of the Gilroy Garlic Festival shooting and the Victims Relief Fund that was put into place.

Now, as we did then, we are working with the guidance of our nonprofit investment partner [Silicon Valley Community Foundation](#). Additionally, we have been in contact with [Silicon Valley Council for Nonprofits](#), the [League of California Community Foundations](#) and the Collaborating Agencies Disaster Relief Effort to stay up-to-date with the information and resources they are providing. In addition to these resources, we have assembled a more extensive list of community resources that can be of help to our local nonprofits. Please visit our Community Resource page for that list. Check back often, as we will be updating information as we get it.

[Gilroy Chamber of Commerce](#) has launched a special fundraiser to support local healthcare professionals in gratitude for all that they are giving to our community. Gilroy Helping Heroes is designed to allow the community to help purchase face masks and face shields for our healthcare heroes. The goal is \$18,000 in the next 14 days to purchase 5,000 face masks and 5,000 face shields. The money that is being donated will be held by Gilroy Foundation until such time that the PPEs are purchased. Click [here](#) to donate.



During these turbulent times, we thank you all once again for your support of Gilroy Foundation over the years and send best wishes for the good health of family and friends.

Please let us know if there is anything we can do for you as we move forward in the

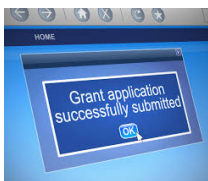
days and weeks ahead. If there is any additional information we can provide, please email [director@gilroyfoundation.org](mailto:director@gilroyfoundation.org) or leave a message at 408.842.3727 and we will be happy to answer your queries.

Stay well!  
~Donna Pray

*"Give Where You Live"*

## 2020 GILROY FOUNDATION GRANTS

This year, there was no opportunity to gather with donors and grant recipients as we do each year at the Annual Meeting and Charitable Grants Presentation, scheduled for April 22nd.



Our "new normal" consisted of a Zoom meeting with the Grants committee to finalize grants after a team of readers submitted their rankings. Letters and checks were mailed to those receiving Competitive Grants. ED Donna Pray reached out to Donor Advised Grant donors to finalize their choices for grant making. And donors who established Designated Funds to particular charities were notified that those grant checks went out as well.

A total of 16 Competitive grants were funded for a distribution of \$49,812. To date, \$276,216 total grant funding will be awarded in 2020. At the April 28 Board of Directors meeting, via Zoom, 2020 grants were approved and are being announced via the Gilroy Foundation website. We have asked organizations to submit short videos that will be posted on Social Media Platforms.

Congratulations to all of the grantees and many thanks to our donors for another very successful and rewarding grant season!

## GILROY FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS AND AWARDS

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 2020, we had over 750 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 were mailed to students announcing these awards. This year, \$492,000 was awarded. Though there will be no Senior Night to capture photos of students receiving award, Gilroy Foundation plans to share photos of the graduating seniors on Social Media, with their permission, as they share them with us.

**Congratulations** to the students and many thanks to donors and to the readers who helped make these selections.

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

*"It is always a satisfying and uplifting experience to read all of the scholarship applications. It renews my faith that there are so many amazing, talented, giving and hardworking young people who will take the lead in government, medicine, education; and our future will be bright and better because of them."*

*"I really enjoyed reading the scholarship applications. The ones that included the letters of recommendation from school counselors revealed some very hard things some students have to contend with, all the while working to help support their family and getting excellent grades. Like everyone else, I wanted each one to get the scholarship."*

*"I enjoy reading scholarship applications-it is rewarding to see the community engage in its future. And it is just as rewarding to be a part of it."*

#### AS WE DO OUR ONLINE SHOPPING....

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.

Support Gilroy Foundation by starting your shopping [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)

#### PROTECT WHAT MATTERS MOST, NOW AND ALWAYS!

With so much uncertainty at the moment, our Mission, to establish a legacy of giving by linking charitable gifts from donors to the vital needs of the community, is of extreme importance.



And while you may be unsure of a way to support Gilroy Foundation given this crisis, creating a PLANNED GIFT is a powerful way to make a lasting impact and legacy with

us that won't cost you anything today.

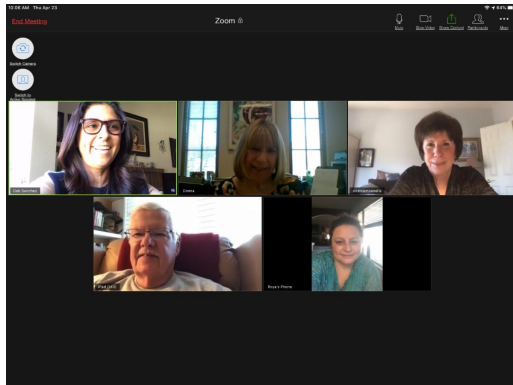
We hope you will join the many people who have included our organization in their will, trust, or beneficiary designations. Writing a will is one of the most important steps to take, though understandably scary or uncomfortable given the current crisis. But now more than ever, it's important to protect what matters most to you and have a plan in place.

You can read more about these options on our [website](#).

## #WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER

At [Gilroy Foundation](#), the health and safety of our team and their loved ones is one of our top priorities. Since March 16, we've made sure our whole team has the structure and gear they need to effectively work from home, manage stress, and continue their incredible work supporting our mission.

Here is a photo of our team members taken during one of our weekly Zoom Office meetings (L) and of our Board of Directors at the March meeting (R).



## APPRECIATING OUR SUSTAINING SPONSORS

Gilroy Foundation thanks Sustaining Sponsor [Pinnacle Bank](#) for their continued support in all of our efforts, but most especially for their help in securing the Small Business Association's Payroll Protection Program funding during this pandemic crisis. We are proud that four local businesses continue to support Gilroy's community foundation as a Sustaining Sponsor.

Thank you to [Christopher Ranch](#), Pinnacle Bank, [Gilroy Toyota](#), and [Recology](#) for your commitment to our community and the programs of Gilroy Foundation!

*"Give Where You Live"*

Thank you to our Sustaining Sponsors





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