



*Working remotely has been a blessing as well as a challenge.*

*There has been more time to learn, to read, to listen--away from the day-to-day activities of being at a desk in our Gilroy Foundation offices.*

*We have all learned so many new terms: social distancing, contact tracing, flattening the curve, self-isolation....and on and on. The one term that has been a bit of an oxymoron is "new normal." Nothing about this time is "new" or "normal." So, instead we can call these days our "current reality."*

*Life is a game of adjustments; and here, at Gilroy Foundation, we have "adjusted" our work to meet the needs of the people of our community. It is our Vision and our Mission. Thank YOU for being our donors, supporters and friends of Gilroy Foundation that allow us to do the work we do.*

## GILROY FOUNDATION'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR

We had BIG plans! An activity every month of 2020 to celebrate the people and the work of Gilroy Foundation. But everything changed (read above: life is a game of adjustments!) Events ranged from marching in holiday parades to gathering for a family picnic to celebrating annual events such as our Annual Meeting, hosting the Wine Booth at Garlic Festival and holding our major fundraiser, A Day in the Country.

Never fear...we WILL find a way to celebrate this milestone in Gilroy Foundation's history!



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## 2020 GRANT RECIPIENTS' VIDEO ACCEPTANCE

We couldn't acknowledge our 18 Competitive Grant recipients at an April Annual Meeting and Charitable Grants Presentation, so we are doing the next best thing: over the next month, we will be sharing the "Thank You" videos they sent to us on Social Media. Follow Gilroy Foundation on Facebook to enjoy these clever and heartfelt expressions of gratitude.





Gilroy Foundation awarded its first scholarship in 1999. It was the Julie Hayes and Richard Hayes award for \$250 each. That was just the beginning of our ability to help hundreds of students with educational expenses.

From 1999-2020, Gilroy Foundation has awarded \$5.5 Million in [scholarships](#) to deserving high school graduates and community college students in the Gilroy area. More than 90% of scholarships awarded to [GUSD](#) students come through Gilroy Foundation; in 2020, that amount totaled \$492,000.

Congratulations to all of the 2020 Scholarship winners! [Names](#) of 2020 recipients can be found on Gilroy Foundation's website.

### YOUTH BOARD WRAPS UP ANOTHER GREAT YEAR!

Gilroy Foundation Board member, Sal Tomasello coordinates the [Youth Board](#), made up of 30 young adults from area junior high and high schools. Their year came to an abrupt halt, gathering via Zoom to receive (virtually) their Certificates of Participation.

Their work through out the year is to learn leadership skills and provide service to local agencies, including the Annual Holiday Toy Drive that, this year, benefited Rebekah Children's Services and St. Joseph Family Center. Congratulations to the students and thank you to their mentors: Marilyn Ayala, Ericka Davis, Deanna Franklin, Brigitte Nichols, Debbie Russell, Mike Sanchez, Roya Wallace, and Staff Member Deb Sanchez.

### GROWING UP GILROY FUND-5 YEARS LATER

In 2015, we sent a letter asking millennials and their families if they remembered growing up in Gilroy-taking tumbling classes at Wheeler Auditorium, playing Little League baseball, or taking swim lessons through Parks and Rec. If they remembered participating in these activities and more while growing up here, we wanted them to know that there are some youth here now who are not able to participate in activities like these because they can't afford to.



Our goal was to identify 200 donors asking them to give \$50 (or more). We received some very generous donations, along with wonderful shared memories and even some classic photos! In the past five years, the fund has grown to more than \$11,000 and grants have been awarded over the years to applicants and organizations supporting the young people growing up here now.

In 2020, funds were awarded to complete funding for Gilroy High School's Envision Academy (to design and maintain sustainable minimal landscapes with healthy vegetables) and to Rucker Home and School Club for theater arts program equipment. Note: there were no applicants for sports programs.

Additional donations to this fund will increase the principle and allow even more money to be granted annually to youth program projects. If you remember "Growing Up Gilroy," won't you share that memory with this next generation? [Donate](#) now!

## 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](#).

## GILROY FOUNDATION NONPROFIT INVESTMENT PARTNERS

In 2005, a Gilroy nonprofit received a bequest from a supporter of over \$555,000. At the time, they were starting a Capital Campaign and asked if they could open a non-endowed fund with Gilroy Foundation for this bequest and for future fundraising.

This was our first Nonprofit Investment Partner! Since then, we have opened several more--most are non-endowed, so that the organization may withdraw any amount of their funding at any time. There are a few partners that decided to make their funds truly "endowed" so they could be guaranteed an annual payout to help with their operating expenses. Besides our investment opportunities, we also promote their services and events through our social media.

This month, we highlight our Nonprofit Investment Partner, Operation Freedom Paws.

About [Operation Freedom Paws](#) (OFP) *"Four Paws, Two Feet, One Team"*  
Operation Freedom Paws empowers veterans and individuals with disabilities to restore their freedom to live life.

- Empowers veterans to restore their own independence.
- Trains clients to train a service dog for their specific needs
- Builds human - canine service teams
- Provides the support needed for clients to succeed

**If you would like to support the efforts of OFP, you can enjoy  
June 6, 2020 Contactless/Virtual OFP Fundraiser 2020**

- Silent Auction Items & Drawings too!!
- Tri Tip Dinner, Dessert & Glass of Wine!
- Tickets \$20

~ Pick up & carry out at Old City Hall Restaurant ~

All proceeds will benefit local 501(c)3 non-profit, OPERATION FREEDOM PAWS, who matches veterans, adults and children with rescued shelter dogs, then trains them together to become OFP-Certified Service Dog Teams.

Public · Hosted by Operation Freedom Paws

When: Saturday, June 6, 2020

Time: 12:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Where: Old City Hall Restaurant (pick up & carry out)  
7400 Monterey Rd, Gilroy, CA

To place your order: Call 408-842-3454 or

Go to [Eventbrite](#): Purchase Tickets

*"Give Where You Live"*

Thank you to our Sustaining Sponsors



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