



Summer is fun. It is a season that is all about playing. The end of August can be a sad time because we know it means that summer will soon be over.

But fall has its perks too. Sweater weather, color-changing trees, pumpkin spice lattes (if you're into that sort of thing), hot cocoa, all of these are happy moments that autumn offers us.

No matter where you've been in life, if things are changing, consider the thought that it may be a good thing. What goodness can come from this change? What new things will you learn and experience? If nothing comes to mind, think harder. There is always a silver lining.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As we continue through these trying times, we move forward with our work as best we can. We are proud to report that our 2020 scholarship cycle has awarded \$493,500 to local graduates. We have been sending checks to these graduates' new schools and wish them well. This year, these college freshmen will be experiencing their first higher education experience in a way no one imagined, but, our scholarship recipients are smart, community-oriented and resilient young people and we know they will be #GilroyStrong in accepting the challenges this year is bringing them.



Gilroy Foundation was founded in 1980 and we are celebrating our 40th anniversary. Also this year, we are having our 30th "Day in the Country" on Saturday, September 26. However, this will be our first "virtual" fundraising event. We're very excited about this new adventure. For the first time, we don't have to worry about being sold out and having to turn people away, as we can have hundreds and hundreds of people join us for this live streaming event! We hope to see you then!

Lastly, I am honored to celebrate my 25th anniversary of serving as the Foundation's Executive Director. As I always say, no one has a better job than I have. Fulfilling donors wishes to support their causes and this community, and then working with those programs and groups they have chosen, has been a very rewarding experience. I continue to look forward to our work here at Gilroy Foundation....connecting donor

resources to community needs.
~Donna Pray

SAVE THE DATE: *Virtual "Day in the Country"*

Please join us "from the comfort of your own home"
for Gilroy Foundation's



Saturday, September 26, 2020, 7-8 PM

*Money raised from this event and the accompanying
Online Auction supports our scholarship program for local graduates.*

The first step to becoming part of the evening is to [Register!](#)
Then click on "Buy Tickets" and enter your information there.
Registration to attend our Virtual Fundraiser is **FREE!**

Event Chair, Lee Blaetter, is very excited about this "new adventure" and shares that the Committee will be adding additional details via Social Media.
Please read the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for details.

If, the meantime, you have questions, contact Event Coordinator, Deb Sanchez, at dsanchez@gilroyfoundation.org

YOUTH BOARD RAMPS UP FOR 2020-21

The meetings may look a little different as Youth Board members and mentors "gather" to kick off the new school year. But we are excited by the challenges and opportunities for growth that these "unprecedented times" offer as Gilroy Foundation's [Youth Board](#) gets ready to "Re-Zoom" on September 14th.

Board of Director Liaison Sal Tomasello and Staff Liaison Deb Sanchez have already met with mentors to set up the year's calendar while student applications are being received. The Mission for the Youth Board is to educate and mobilize students to help solve the most significant challenges in our community--creating our future civic leaders.

Thank you to Marilyn Ayala, Ericka Davis, Brigitte Nicholls, Debbie Russell, Mike Sanchez and Roya Wallace who will serve as student mentors for the coming year. We'll be sure to keep you posted with stories and photos.

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FOCUS ON NONPROFIT INVESTMENT PARTNER, SOUTH VALLEY SYMPHONY

[South Valley Symphony](#) is a non-profit, volunteer community orchestra, dedicated to providing orchestral opportunities for local musicians, educational support/mentoring to students in music programs in South Bay school districts and performing four classical/pops concerts annually for the enjoyment and enrichment of audiences of diverse ages and cultures in South Santa Clara County and neighboring communities in San Benito County with free admittance to SVS concerts for all children in grades K-12 and college students with valid ID.

Unfortunately, the season was shortened due to COVID restrictions, but we look forward to news of what their new season will look like.

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