



As we often comment here in the Gilroy Foundation office, "There are no challenges. Only opportunities."

So, when "pivot" became a household word over these past six months, pivot was exactly what we did here at Gilroy Foundation to move from a Live event at a local venue for our annual fundraiser, as had been planned, to a "Shelter in Place (SIP) online fundraiser!

When gathering together for an event was no long possible, the team of Lee Blaettler, Board Member, and Deb Sanchez, Event Coordinator, began tireless research to learn about online events and how to bring one to life for our friends and supporters in 2020. After countless webinars, advice from other organizations, phone calls, and Zoom meetings, they moved forward with plans for a Livestreamed event and online auction.

And so began planning for the September 26 annual fundraiser for Gilroy Foundation.....



**Gilroy Foundation's Virtual Day in the Country 2020 was a wonderful success!**

In our homes, with friends, in our jammies in our own homes, from our patios and yards....we gathered wherever and however in these COVID days to support the scholarship program of Gilroy Foundation at our first ever online event.

Early in the evening, Gilroy Foundation Ambassadors lined up in the alley behind the beautifully restored venue of The Neon Exchange to pick up dinners, deliciously prepared by Fire For Hire, to be delivered to our generous sponsors--a part of the package they received for their sponsorship donation.

Already in our places at 6:30PM, the rest of us tuned into the pre-show that acknowledged sponsors and donors, and SIP'ed (along with our beverage of choice!) for the coming event. At 7PM, Live from the beautiful ballroom inside The Neon Exchange, Emcee Jayson Stebbins created an atmosphere of fun and excitement as the program began.



Early morning set-up at the Neon Exchange.



Behind the Scenes!



2020 Virtual Day in the Country is LIVE!

In pre-recorded messages, ED Donna Pray welcomed guests, followed by Board President Joel Goldsmith who provided a background on the Foundation and its 40 year history. Scholarship recipient Jane Tovar and Grant recipient Mattie Scariot shared how the financial awards they received made such a difference in their life and organization, respectively. And Gilroy's own Mitchell James provided the evening's entertainment to wrap up the program.

Heartfelt Congratulations and Thanks to Event Chair Lee Blaettler and GF Event Coordinator Deb Sanchez for the hours and hours of research, meetings, taping sessions,

rehearsals and energy they expended to create a evening full of fun and fundraising.

Thanks also to Board Member Vito Mercado, Sponsorship Chair, who procured \$23,150 in sponsorship funding. We are so very grateful to Ambassador Mike Sanchez who took the reins of the energized social media campaign leading up to our event. The buzz and hype created brought many to register to attend the Livestreamed event and bid on the online auction items.

## THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS

Sponsorship totals for this year's event have been phenomenal, and we are so very grateful to our sponsors for their support. We have been highlighting them frequently on Social Media; but, in case you missed it, here they are:

### Platinum Sponsors

*Blaettler Accountancy*  
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### Gold Sponsors

*Patty Filice, Broker Associate*  
*The Neon Exchange*  
*Silicon Valley Community Foundation*

### Silver Sponsor

*Mission Valley Ford*

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*Kent Construction*  
*South Valley Property Management*

***"Give Where You Live"***

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