

***THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS:  
There is more to the story!***



*Despite what many retail outlets will have you believe, the Twelve Days of Christmas do NOT occur in the twelve days before Christmas, but in the twelve days following! Back in the olden days of yore Christmas trees were not put up until Christmas Eve because the Christmas season did not begin until December 25.*

*The following twelve days leading to Epiphany, were then the time for all the merry making and party throwing and frolicking about in fancy clothes.*

*A large Twelfth Night party was often the end of the season, sometimes even with a reversal of rolls - the servants of the wealthy would be served by their employers and all would celebrate together.*

*January 6 was then the day when the tree came down and the decorations went back into storage - a tradition many still hold on to.*

*So, in the spirit of this Holiday Season, making everyone's Season merry and bright, the Gilroy Foundation Board of Directors and Staff zoomed their version of this centuries old carol, giving it new life (and hilarity!). Take a few minutes to enjoy the voices and gestures after hearing Board President Joel Goldsmith recount the events of 2020 at Gilroy Foundation. Sing along, if you care to! Read on to find the link....*

**FAST FORWARD TO HOLIDAY SEASON, 2020**

We thought you might enjoy a challenge! Bring "The Twelve Days...." alive with these updated suggestions.

# 12 Days of Christmas



- |       |           |                                      |
|-------|-----------|--------------------------------------|
| Watch | <b>1</b>  | ONE OLD MOVIE                        |
| Visit | <b>2</b>  | FRIENDS YOU DON'T SEE OFTEN          |
| PLAY  | <b>3</b>  | GAMES OF CARDS                       |
| Make  | <b>4</b>  | MEALS TO FREEZE                      |
| Plan  | <b>5</b>  | WAYS TO VOLUNTEER IN THE NEW YEAR    |
| Clean | <b>6</b>  | DRAWERS OR CLOSETS                   |
| READ  | <b>7</b>  | PAGES IN A NEW BOOK OUT LOUD         |
| Give  | <b>8</b>  | BOXES OF PET FOOD TO A SHELTER       |
| LEARN | <b>9</b>  | WAYS TO SAY HELLO IN OTHER LANGUAGES |
| Share | <b>10</b> | GOOD MEMORIES WITH SOMEONE           |
| DO    | <b>11</b> | JUMPING JACKS                        |
| Write | <b>12</b> | THINGS YOU ARE GRATEFUL FOR          |

## MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, December 2020

At this time of giving, we appreciate all who are becoming members of the Foundation for 2021 and for all who have participated in the Youth Board's Giving Tree.

### "A Necessary Response: Stepping to the Plate"

#### The Story of Gilroy Foundation's Response to the Gilroy Garlic Festival Shooting

It has been a six-month process, but we have completed a project we challenged ourselves with during the months working on the Gilroy Festival Victims Relief Fund. We wanted to do a few things. First, we wanted to tell "Our Story," which is what we went through here at the office, around our community and beyond. Then, we wanted to explain how many people were involved in helping to collect and distribute the \$1.9+million for the victims. Lastly, and maybe most importantly, we wanted to create a document that would help other communities that may have to go through what we went through last year. When we started the Fund, we didn't have anyone to guide us on how to contact victims, and how to distribute the money we were collecting from our generous community who put on fundraisers and others who just donated money from all over the nation. And, we've completed that document. We have called it "Lessons Learned." We have created a separate page on this website that will be there in perpetuity, telling our friends and our families, and future generations what we went through. Although it may bring back some tough memories, it is part of Gilroy's history now, and it needed to be documented. You'll find this information on [#GILROYSTRONG](#).

## THE 2021 GRANT CYCLE IS NOW OPEN!

Since 1980, Gilroy Foundation has awarded over **\$14.8 million** in grants and scholarships. Foundation grants have made a positive and powerful difference in every sphere of life. To apply, download a current [Grant Application](#) from our website. The application with the required attachments must be emailed to [director@gilroyfoundation.org](mailto:director@gilroyfoundation.org) by 5 p.m. on Monday, February 1.

Our grants have been making an impact on our community for 40 years. A perfect example is a note we received from Erin O'Brien, President and CEO of Community Solutions here in Gilroy. Erin wrote us to thank us for our continued support for the work they do for children, individuals and families. "Community Solutions is very honored to have Gilroy Foundation as one of the loyal and generous supporters of our clients. Your giving hearts give hope to others' hearts." This would have not been possible without the generosity of our donors who believe in the Foundation's motto of *"Give Where You Live."*

Thank you all!  
~Donna Pray

### MEMBERSHIP IN GILROY FOUNDATION

In mid-November, Thanksgiving cards were mailed to more than 700 listings on our database, inviting them to become a member, renew their membership, or add to their fund.

Donors to Gilroy Foundation have various ways to participate in philanthropy in our community:

- As an annual member with a gift from \$100 to \$1,000, your gift to Gilroy Foundation goes into the general unrestricted endowment for grant giving or one of our Community Needs funds of your choice; five percent of year-end balances of these investment funds support the annual grant-making cycle.
- By establishing an individual, family, or corporate fund that may be designated to a particular charity; or donor-advised, where the donor makes the annual decision on a grant(s).
- By choosing a bequest to the Foundation in their estate planning and become members of the Legacy Society.



The minimum amount to start a separate fund is \$10,000. Consecutive annual donations via our membership program is another way to establish a fund. When those donations total \$10,000, a separate fund may be established.

Since 1980, Gilroy Foundation has awarded over \$14.8 Million in grants and scholarships. We look forward to your continued support to respond to the growing needs of our local community, both now and in the future.

Check out the benefits of [becoming a member](#) and make your gift today.

## YOUTH BOARD "HOLIDAY GIVING TREE"

Instead of a Giving Tree hosted by a local restaurant this year, we went online to Amazon to "make the season bright" for the youth at Rebekah Children's Services. Thank you to all who so generously donated.

*Now that you have finished reading, take a look and sing along!*

<https://youtu.be/WjPuvhtTAzE>



*"Give Where You Live"*

**As always, thank you to our Sustaining Sponsors**

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!



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