

## **A NEW YEAR? YES, PLEASE!**

Last year, in the January issue of our monthly newsletter, we announced--with much excitement--all of the celebrations planned to acknowledge the 40 years of Gilroy Foundation. Well, we all know that none of those celebrations came to fruition; but, celebrating the work of Gilroy Foundation is something we do every day!

Recalling the Mission and Vision of Gilroy Foundation guides us in our daily efforts.

**The Mission:** *To establish a legacy of giving, Gilroy Foundation links charitable gifts from donors to the vital needs of the community.*

**The Vision:** *By engaging all aspects of the community, Gilroy Foundation is the recognized leader in connecting resources to community needs.*

To our donors, we say "THANK YOU." YOU are the reason Gilroy Foundation is able to meet the needs of the community in the specific areas of Health, Education, Recreation, Technology, Culture, and Civic Services.

## **MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

As we march into 2021, we look forward to a year of peace and health for all. 2020 was a rough year; but we, at Gilroy Foundation, managed to get our work done. We awarded \$493,500 in [scholarships to graduating seniors](#), and \$331,566 through our competitive and pass-through [grantmaking programs](#).

### ***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 Gilroy Foundation's website. We have changed our procedures and think all will find them helpful. Just upload a completed application, with attached documentation, and email to [dpray@gilroyfoundation.org](mailto:dpray@gilroyfoundation.org) by 5 p.m. on Monday, February 1.



Our grants have been making an impact on our community for 40 years. Many of the grants we fund truly have an effect on organizations and individuals. An example was in a note from John Hogan, VP of Teen Force. They had a student who completed 60 hours of STEM training and 20 hours of professional development training. "This enabled him to land a paid internship and has helped shape his interest in college and career. Funding from Gilroy Foundation has connected foster youth, nonprofits, schools and the private sector to contribute to a stronger community."



This would have not been possible without the generosity of our donors who believe in the Foundation's motto of *"Give Where You Live."*

Read our criteria and download an [application](#) from our GRANTS page.

### *OUR 2021 SCHOLARSHIP CYCLE IS NOW OPEN!*

The Criteria for our scholarships are on our [scholarship](#) page. Many of our scholarships use the GUSD Common Application; however, some have their own application and some have their own high school recommendation form. The deadline for most scholarships is Friday, March 5, however, some have later deadlines.

Take care and stay safe!

~Donna Pray

*"Give Where You Live!"*

### **THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT!**

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

We received 47 membership responses, totaling \$21,385 and 17 fund donors added to existing funds for a total of \$42,900, along with 3 miscellaneous donations totaling \$100.

*Welcome to the newest members of Gilroy Foundation: Elaine and Gary Burce, Christine Filice, Janis and Greg Filice, Kathy and Gennaro Filice, Susan and Robert Long, Debbi and Mike Sanchez, Martin Schlapfer & Sheila Zart, and UNFI.*

Here is a complete list of Gilroy Foundation [members](#).

*Thank you for your generous support.*

### **IN CASE YOU MISSED IT (ICYMI)**

Here is what we have been busy with during December/January:

- How proud we are of this motivated, ambitious and oh, so sweet young lady, **Danielle Russell**, who also happens to be this year's Gilroy Foundation Youth Board Secretary. The important work Danielle is doing honors our veterans by making sure they will not be forgotten. Donations to repair headstones and purchase medallions to mark the graves may be made so that the work Danielle has begun will flourish! Find out more about the [Gavilan Hills Veterans Memorial Project](#).



Danielle has also been named the recipient of the **2021 Susan B. Valenta Youth Leadership Award**, a Gilroy Chamber of Commerce Spice of Life Award winner!

Another notable Spice of Life award winner in our midst is Board of Directors member **Carlos Pineda** who has been named **2021 Young Professional** by the Gilroy Chamber of Commerce! Carlos is the director of Hospitality and Culinary Services and Executive Chef at the Culinary Academy and Kneaded Bakery & Catering at Rebekah Children's Services. Carlos helped develop the Culinary Academy which is a program that teaches youth ages 15-25 about culinary skills. Carlos has served on the Gilroy Chamber Board of Directors for the last 4 years. Carlos also serves on numerous other Boards such as The Exchange Club, Sunrise Rotary, Leadership Gilroy, and South County Young Professionals Network. Carlos also sits on the Gilroy Housing Advisory Committee.



- [RAC Services LLC](#), is Gilroy Foundation's newest Sustaining Sponsor and we are delighted to welcome them! RAC Services LLC was established in November of 2016 and was rebranded in 2018 to focus on the need for corporate facility solutions and they have expanded to include exterior, landscaping and janitorial services. RAC Services provides their clients with facility support in all capacities and most importantly - minimal disruption to day-to-day operations." They pride themselves on being a women-owned, minority run business with high aspirations. They are a growing company that has doubled in revenue and operations due to client satisfaction and recommendations. *Welcome, and Thank You for your support!*
- Thank you to all who used [AMAZON SMILE](#) over the holidays! Donations to Gilroy Foundation through smile.Amazon.com Foundation will surely be stellar from this past holiday season. If you haven't already registered, be sure to do so and use Amazon Smile all year long when shopping on Amazon-same products, same price, but a percentage of your purchase comes back to us.
- In partnership with [Gilroy Chamber of Commerce](#), Gilroy Foundation collected \$4,915 from generous Gilroy donors during the Gilroy Helping Heroes campaign. Donations would provide much needed PPE products for our local **St. Louise Regional Hospital**. With funds collected, we were able to provide and deliver 25 bottles of Hand Sanitizer, 30 boxes of Protect Masks and 5,700 Medical Grade Nitrile Gloves in various sizes. As usual, when there is a need, Gilroy steps up to help!
- Gilroy Foundation's Youth Board followed up their successful Holiday Toy Drive to benefit Rebekah Children's Services with a Men's Pants Drive in the month of January that would provide this much-needed commodity to the Gilroy Compassion

Center. The Board of Directors applauds the leadership these students are displaying in our community!

- We are saddened to read of the recent passing of former Gavilan Community College President John Joseph Holleman. John was a long-time board member of Gilroy Foundation, Chaired the Wine Tasting Committee for "Day in the Country" for several years was a generous supporter of our early efforts.

## WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBERS!

Gilroy Foundation sincerely thanks outgoing Board members **Marie Blankley** and **Chris Ordaz**, for their invaluable service to our Board. We wish Mayor Blankley all of the best in her new role!



We proudly welcomes our two newest members to the Board of Directors, **Ericka Davis** and **Don DeLorenzo** and are so excited to start this new year with them as they share their many gifts. We asked them each a few questions:

**What motivated you to become involved with Gilroy Foundation?**

**Ericka:** *When I first moved to Gilroy, I was invited to Day in the Country. I met so many friendly and outgoing people that were involved with and excited about supporting the Foundation that I wanted to find out more. I was impressed with the number of individuals and organizations that benefited from the grants and scholarships awarded each year. The following year I helped develop a power point presentation for the Day in the County Live Auction and excitedly took on the task. I volunteered in this capacity for several years, became a Foundation Ambassador and then a Gilroy Foundation Youth Board Mentor.*

**Don:** *Born and raised in Gilroy, I benefitted from many people, schools, organizations, teams...you name it. Being on the Foundation's Board will give me the opportunity to give back to the city that has given me so much, both as I was a growing up and during my professional and business career.*



**A "philanthropist" donates time, talent, and treasure. In what ways are you philanthropic with other organizations?**

**Ericka:** *I volunteer at Christopher High School and am on the committee for the annual Natalia Salcido Legacy Fund (through Gilroy Foundation) annual fundraiser. I support South County Tail Waggers and currently serve as a Foundation Youth Board Mentor.*

**Don:** *I try to stay involved in my community through donating time: as a past member of Rotary, as a current Board member of "Visit Gilroy," as a Board member of Gilroy Sportsman Chefs and the First Tee of Silicon Valley, as well as a volunteer for the Gilroy Garlic Festival and Gilroy Historical Society.*

What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

**Ericka:** I enjoy traveling, getting together with friends and family, cheering my kids on at High School sporting events, taking my dog on hikes ... and I'm always up for a Hallmark holiday movie!

**Don:** I enjoy cooking for my family, bike rides and walks through Gilroy, watching sports and going to SF Giants games (during non-COVID times!)

Check out their bios and those of our 9 other Board of Directors on our [website](#).

*"Give Where You Live"*

As always, thank you to our Sustaining Sponsors

We are proud that five local businesses continue to support Gilroy's community foundation as a Sustaining Sponsor. Thank you to Christopher Ranch, Pinnacle Bank, Gilroy Toyota, Recology South Valley, and RAC Services LLC for your commitment to our community and the programs of Gilroy Foundation!



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