

**May all your Holiday Wishes come true!  
November/December 2021**



**MAY ALL YOUR HOLIDAY WISHES COME TRUE....**

You will find our combined November/December newsletter full of important information. But the real meaning behind this communicate is to take time to reflect upon the good things we have... like our wonderful relationship with you, our sponsors, donors, board members and friends.

We appreciate working with you and hope that the Holidays and the coming year will bring you happiness and joy!

Again in 2021, we could not meet in person at our annual Holiday gathering, so the Board met in late November to spread holiday cheer. If you recall last year's rendition of the "Twelve Days of Christmas," I can assure you that this video (without singing) had us laughing even harder! We know this video reflects the joy our Board of Directors has working together for the good of Gilroy Foundation.

But first, these messages.....

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**A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

*THE NEW 2022 GRANT CYCLE IS NOW OPEN!*

Since 1982, Gilroy Foundation has awarded over \$15.8 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](#). The Application and all required documents must be emailed as one PDF to [director@gilroyfoundation.org](mailto:director@gilroyfoundation.org). Application deadline is 9 P.M. PST, Wednesday, December 15, 2021.

Our grants have been making an impact on our community for over 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."

Read our criteria and download an application.

Thank you all!  
~Donna Pray  
"Give Where You Live"

## WELCOME TO THE TEAM, RENEE GARCIA!

Originally from Santa Cruz County, Renee Garcia brings her bilingual and managerial skills to our program as an Administrative Assistant and Grants Coordinator.



She spent the last 25 years in Ventura, raising her two children working in the medical field and volunteering in the community. Her compassion and dedication have led her to support local schools, 4-H clubs, Ventura Land Trust, the women's shelter, and the Cancer Research Center at Community Memorial Hospital. Since returning to the Gilroy area, she has enjoyed gardening, hiking, traveling, and reconnecting with old friends.

*"Helping one person might not change the whole world, but it could change the world for one person."* Rumi

Gilroy Foundation welcomes you warmly to the Team, Renee!

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### YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN GILROY FOUNDATION

In mid-November, Thanksgiving cards were mailed to more than 700 listings on our database, inviting recipients 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 grantmaking cycle.
- By establishing an individual, family, or corporate fund that may be designated to a particular charity; or donor-advised fund, where the donor makes the annual decision on where a grant goes.
- By choosing a bequest to the Foundation in their estate planning and become members of the Legacy Society. No paperwork is necessary; just let us know you have included Gilroy Foundation in your estate planning.

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 these donations total \$10,000, a separate fund may be established.

And remember, Gilroy Foundation accepts gifts of cash, stock, real estate, and cryptocurrency. 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](#) or [starting a fund](#) and make your gift today!

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### GILROY FOUNDATION IS AWARDED LATINXCEL GRANT FUNDING

This is very exciting news for Gilroy Foundation, Latino Family Fund (LFF) and for our community and South County.

The following is a message from GF ED Donna Pray, paraphrasing a message from Interim LFF President, Edwin

Diaz to Latino Family Fund (LFF) members that best describes the grant funding: *During this time of a renewed focus on issues of equity and justice throughout our country and in our communities, Gilroy Foundation Board of Directors, along with our Latino Family Fund officers and a few members, have been meeting and discussing how does the Foundation (GF) and LFF work alongside other community partners to address issues of equity in our community/region?*

*The answers to this issue are complex and challenging. However, in order to take advantage of the significant opportunities presented to us, GF and LFF have received a grant from Silicon Valley Community Foundation to support LFF's work ahead. Through this grant, GF/LFF has already hired a part-time administrative assistant, Renee Garcia, who is assigned about 30% of her time to support LFF.*

*Through this grant, **LFF is now announcing the hiring of a part-time Executive Director.** The position has been advertised (on Indeed) and will close on December 30, 2021.*

Please help spread the word of this search. Gilroy Foundation and LFF leaders and membership are very proud of the impact they have had on the community and youth over the years through their Youth in Philanthropy program. This is a very exciting time for LFF—a time to expand their impact and address issues of equity in Gilroy.

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## GIVE LOCALLY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON



- **“Give Where You Live”**-- Besides our General Grantmaking Fund, there are many available opportunities to donate to Gilroy Foundation. Consult the [List of Funds](#); then, simply make a donation by clicking on the “Make A Donation” button. Whether you pay with a credit or debit card, or your PayPal account, you can type in your choice of funds in the “Where should we direct your donation?” box.
- **Show the Love**—Share the good news about Gilroy Foundation, our nonprofit investment partners and fiscal sponsorships. Like and Share our stories on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) and help increase our visibility in the community—on social media or in person.
- **Give to a cause instead of a gift**—If you struggle to find the perfect gift for a family member or friend, why not consider [making a donation](#) to Gilroy Foundation or one of our nonprofit investment partners in their name? It will be a lasting gift and one that will be long remembered.

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## AMAZONSMILE = \$\$ FOR GILROY FOUNDATION!

Did you know that Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to Gilroy Foundation when you shop? And every little purchase adds up.

A recent quarterly notification indicated that AmazonSmile has made a charitable donation to Gilroy Foundation in the amount of \$53.

Keep shopping using [AmazonSmile](#). And THANK YOU!



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**SIGN UP.....SIGN IN.....AND SHOP!**

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## WHAT DID I MISS?

In case you missed these highlights in the

## MAKING SPIRITS BRIGHT....

Gilroy Foundation's Youth Board has

past month on our Social Media platforms....

## VOTE OPERATION FREEDOM PAWS!

Our Nonprofit Investment Partner, Operation Freedom Paws is proud to announce that they have been selected as one of 101 Petco Love Stories winners this year, thanks to Chau Pham's story about his service dog Apollo!

Now they have the chance to earn an additional \$25,000 grant award – but they need our help!

Submit your **vote** by **December 15, noon CST** for Operation Freedom Paws in the People's Choice Award competition!

## DEB SANCHEZ RECEIVES Leadership Gilroy's LIFT Award!

Congratulations to Gilroy Foundation's Executive Assistant Debbi Sanchez! Deb received the LIFT Award from Leadership Gilroy at Thursday's Rise and Shine Breakfast, hosted at The Neon Exchange.

The LIFT Award is given annually in recognition of Outstanding Community Leadership. The initials stand for Lead, Inspire, Focus and Team, qualities that Deb possesses and shares tirelessly in our community.



collected canned food for St. Joseph's Family Center, toys for Rebekah Childrens' Services, and undergarments and socks for South County Compassion Center.

On behalf of the Youth Board, THANK YOU for your very generous response! #givewhereyoulive!"

## GF YOUTH BOARD PAST PRESIDENT RECEIVES YOUTH HIGH 5 AWARD

Congratulations to GECA senior, Jamin Escudero, for receiving a Youth High 5 award from the Gilroy Chamber of Commerce at the October Coffee and Commerce event.



Jamin was nominated by GECA Principal, Sonia Flores who stated "his involvement in Gilroy makes our city a better place, and his contributions at GECA have positively impacted our school community."



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## HAPPY HOLIDAY GREETINGS FROM GILROY FOUNDATION STAFF AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS!

*Gilroy Foundation's Board of Directors and Staff wish each and every one of your Constant Contact friends a very Happy Holiday Season. Enjoy their 7 minute message to you at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sMy7RcOJfIQ>*

Greetings from Directors Joel Goldsmith, Karen La Corte, Jennifer Speno, Jay Baksa, Edwin Diaz, Lee Blaettler, Ericka Davis, Don DeLorenzo, Vito Mercado, Carlos Pineda, Sal Tomasello; and Staff Members, Donna Pray, Vicki Campanella, Deb Sanchez, and Renee Garcia.





GILROY'S FINEST  
Christopher Ranch



PINNACLE BANK



## "Give Where You Live"

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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Gilroy Foundation | [gilroyfoundation.org](http://gilroyfoundation.org)

