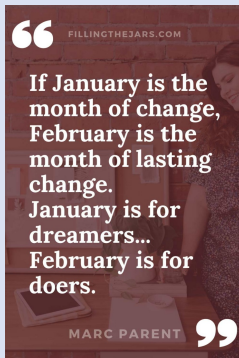


## February is for Doers February 2022



### February is for Doers!

Maybe it's just us here at Gilroy Foundation, but when something comes up in November, our canned response is "let's take care of it in January!" Then, in January, all those To Do's that have piled up as so staggering that we find ourselves in February--the shortest month of the year--trying to tie up all of those loose ends.

So, here we are "doing" a LOT in February....read all about it here!

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### THE FEBRUARY WEBSITE MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

#### THE 2022 SCHOLARSHIP CYCLE IS NOW OPEN!

*Our 2022 Scholarship Cycle is now open. This year, we are offering 80 awards totaling \$512,750.*

*Our scholarships range from a \$250 award to a \$50,000 award. Most of our high school scholarships use the GUSD Common Application, but a few have their own special application. Our Gavilan scholarships use the college's application, but a few have their own special application. These applications are on our scholarship page. Criteria for all Gilroy Foundation scholarships are available to read and [download](#) as well.*

*And, there's something in the air for this coming May! On the 17th, we will be hosting our second "Give Where You Live" Faire at the Elks' Lodge on the Hill.*

*We had our first "Faire" in 2019, where we reconnected with donors and volunteers and introduced new Gilroy residents to the Foundation's work. That was three years ago, and we thought it was time to reconnect, again, and update the community on how we have managed to touch the community through the 2019 Festival tragedy and then the past two years of the pandemic....all the while continuing the programs of the Foundation.*

*The evening will begin with a visual historical presentation, followed by a panel discussion on the different ways the Foundation touches various facets of our community, following by a networking/social hour of appetizers and wine, while guests can visit various Information Tables that will be staffed by Foundation Directors and Staff. More information will be posted on our website and in our monthly Constant Contact newsletters....stay tuned!*



We send greetings to all our friends, partners, and supporters and hope for good health for all this year.

Thank you all!

~Donna Pray

“Give Where You Live”



### FIND OUT MORE ABOUT LATINO FAMILY FUND de GILROY...

Thanks to a very generous grant from [Silicon Valley Community Foundation](#), Gilroy Foundation and Latino Family Fund (LFF) were awarded funds to expand LFF's impact, leadership and advocacy for the LatinX community, to ensure the LFF's long-term sustainability, and to provide Gilroy Foundation broad-based knowledge to address community

needs/equity.

Under the leadership of LFF ED Jaclyn Muro, work has begun in many areas. Here, see the [interim page on Gilroy Foundation's website](#) until LFF has created its new website. You'll find some history, great photos, email addresses of LFF officers, and an opportunity to make a donation!

### FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.....

*We are proud at Gilroy Foundation to ensure professional fiduciary responsibility to our fund donors and members. We have a dedicated Finance Committee, which is made up of seven members, that meets quarterly for budget planning purposes, as well as reviewing our invested endowment funds. We have had a professional audit done annually for many years. As with any company, whether for-profit or nonprofit, we know procedures and policies need to be reviewed and updated as we move forward.*



*I am pleased to welcome an update from the Chair of our Finance Committee, Board Member Jay Baksa. ~Donna Pray, ED*

### FINANCIAL EFFICIENCY by Jay Baksa

We all know the good that the Gilroy Foundation does in this community. From its very beginning its goal was and continues to this day, to improve the quality of life for our Gilroy community and its citizens. From the yearly distribution of grants, scholarships, to the active involvement in meeting community needs (i.e. the coordinating effort after the Garlic Festival shootings) the Gilroy Foundation strives to make life better for everyone in need.

But what lies below the surface of this success? Any organization needs the administrative basics to have the kind of attainment that the Foundation has accomplished. Hiring excellent personal, ensuring community transparency, and establishing efficient and effective administrative systems and procedures, are at the core of these basics. Over the last three years the Foundation Board of Directors has centered on reviewing the underpinnings of the organization, especially in the finance/budget areas.

The first step the Board took was the reenergizing and reorganization of the Board's Finance Committee. From meeting periodically, the Committee now meets quarterly. The Board's charge to the Committee was to review all the financial systems, especially the budget documents and their corresponding support documents (i.e. the monthly budget/financial reports).

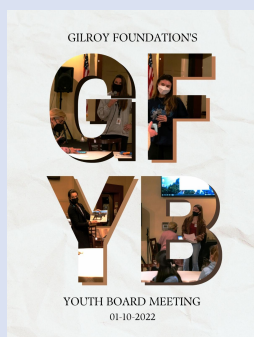
The first job of the Committee was to “cleanup” the documents. This simply meant

to update data bases, and clear out older obsolete accounts. This also meant eliminating and consolidating checking accounts for ease of usage. The next step was more difficult as it included the review of the budget, its' chart of accounts, the monthly financial reports, and finally to ensure they were all consistent with each other. Over the first year this was accomplished. Once everything was consistent with each other, the Committee attacked the budget document and its presentation.

For the next year's budget review, the Finance Committee worked on making the document more easily readable, and to create a "what if/different scenarios" portion, which occurred. The third year incorporated the above changes into a two year budget format, which the Board adopted in November 2021. Included in the 2021 budget was the beginning of the implementation of a staff succession plan into the fiscal document.

The Finance Committee has goals for this upcoming year. The creation of a cash management system that will ensure the maximizing of the Foundation's "idle" monies are invested, is currently being worked on. The goal is to create additional investment income for the Foundation's grants/scholarship programs. Also, this year the Finance Committee plans on recreating the two year budget but with a five year projection addition. This will give the Board a better opportunity to see and discuss the Foundation's financial future clearer, and will allow them to make adjustments in times of change and/or crisis.

The Board of Directors is committed to make sure that every dollar entrusted to them is efficiently and effectively used to meet the goals of our community. This is just a short story on how they are fulfilling that task.

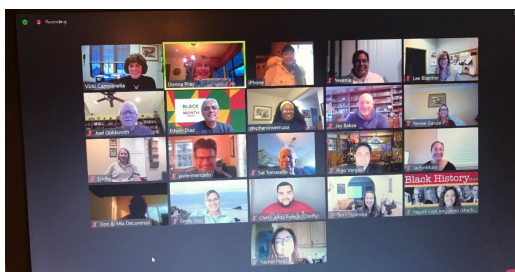


## GF YOUTH BOARD VOTES ON 2022 GRANT RECIPIENT

In addition to learning about community involvement and leadership, Gilroy Foundation's Youth Board is also taking a hands-on approach to learning about philanthropy.

Gilroy Foundation's Youth Board is given \$1,000 annually by the Board of Directors to award a grant. Their focus areas are on youth, therapeutic animals services, rescue animal services and senior citizen community programs. They set up interviews with representatives from four prospective grantees. At their January meeting, Youth Board members listened to these presentations, and at the February meeting, they voted on who the 2022 Youth Board grant would be awarded to.

Stay tuned in March to hear how that vote went!



## GATHERING TO EDUCATE.....

Dubbed as a "historic" event, the Board of Directors of Gilroy Foundation and Latino Family Fund Officers gathered for a presentation on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI).

GF Ambassador and educator, Stephanie Wemusa, with expertise in DEI, shared some definitions and strategies as GF works to develop a DEI policy for Gilroy Foundation--a journey, a lens, a living document!

## CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Every February, people in the United States celebrate the achievements and history of African Americans as part of Black History Month.

Black History Month was created to focus attention on the contributions of African Americans to the United States. It honors all Black people from all periods of U.S. history, from the enslaved people first brought over from Africa in the early 17th century to African Americans living in the United States today.



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## "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, Recology South Valley, RAC Services LLC, and Blaettler Accountancy for your commitment to our community and the programs of Gilroy Foundation.*

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

