April is a Promise....
April 2022

“April is a promise that May is bound to keep.”

SO MUCH TO CELEBRATE IN APRIL
Celebrating Earth Month AND National Volunteer Month in April can make us both aware and grateful—aware of what we must do to save our planet and grateful for the people who go above and beyond by volunteering their time and talent in every walk of life.

The idea of Earth Month is that we should care and learn about our Earth Home for more than just a single day of the year. Focusing one month of the year on climate change and sustainability can help everyone develop more eco-friendly lifestyles.

National Volunteer Month in April celebrates the impact volunteers have on our lives and encourages active volunteerism in generations to come. They generously donate a part of their lives to do the work that nobody else likes to do — cleaning up after the event, fostering shelter dogs, chaperoning field trips, or helping the librarian; there are so many areas requiring volunteers. This month, we salute them for their unwavering services to businesses and communities and hold aloft their examples to inspire young and adults towards volunteerism.

Gilroy Foundation cherishes the gifts we have been given: the majesty of the world around us and those generous treasures who support the work we do—our volunteers.

APRIL WEBSITE MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2022 GRANTS CYCLE
In the 2022 Competitive Grants Cycle, Gilroy Foundation received requests for funding for $158,355.94. Of that amount, $91,112.54 was granted. The needs are great in our local community, though, funding is limited.

Also, in 2022, $157,656.00 was awarded to programs from our Donor Advised Funds; $221,860.00 was awarded to Gilroy charities from our Designated Funds, and our Youth Board awarded a $1,000 grant.
Our total grant awards in 2022 were $470,629.00. A list of those grants can be found [here](#).

You can also view the [video announcement](#) of Gilroy Foundation grants.

**GIVE WHERE YOU LIVE FAIRE, MAY 19th**

There’s something in the air for this coming May! On the 19th, 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 Garlic 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, followed by a networking/social hour with appetizers and wine, while guests can visit various Information Tables that will be staffed by Foundation Directors and Staff.

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”

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**MORE ON THE GIVE WHERE YOU LIVE FAIRE**

As more and more of our friends--and friends of friends--hear about the Faire and let us know they are interested in attending, we are delighted to extend an invitation and are certain they will find what they see and hear that night very valuable food for thought!

Board President Karen La Corte crafted an editorial piece for the May 11 edition of Gilroy Life that will pique your interest. We know that many in our community have "heard" of Gilroy Foundation, but do they know what our community would be like without Gilroy Foundation and what Gilroy Foundation can do for them, their family or their business/organization?

Please let us know you will be in attendance by contacting Deb Sanchez at dsanchez@gilroyfoundation.org. We look forward to seeing you on May 19th at the Elks Lodge on the Hill.

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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MONTHLY EDUCATION PIECE**

An agenda item at the monthly Board of Directors Meeting, the Board Education Piece is a time for members to find out more about the
Foundation in some detail. The April topic was Silicon Valley Community Foundation and Gilroy Foundation’s relationship to it.

In its earliest days, Gilroy Foundation had very little money, so it was held in a savings account at a local bank. As the money grew—"community money" it was advised that we should look to The Community Foundation of Santa Clara County, later changing their name to Community Foundation of Silicon Valley. In 1984, the Board of Directors made a proposal to invest with them and their professional money managers.

In 2006, Community Foundation Silicon Valley and Peninsula Community Foundation of the upper Peninsula merged and became Silicon Valley Community Foundation.

Gilroy Foundation benefits in so many ways from this relationship: we belong to an Alliance of other foundations in the Bay Area, sharing ideas; we have membership in the Council of Foundations and Catchafire, connecting us with other nonprofit professionals, and above all, managed investments with monthly reporting to Gilroy Foundation.

At 7PM on the night of the Garlic Festival shooting, Michelle Fries, Director of Nonprofit Leadership and Support Services, called Donna at home and pledged $10K to begin Victims Relief Fund. If we had tried to do this on our own, we couldn’t have done it. Their help and guidance helped us through this. As SVCF grew, Gilroy Foundation grew.

According to their website, Silicon Valley Community Foundation is a regional catalyst, connector and collaborator. We bring the resources and skills of donors, business, government and community to solve some of our region’s toughest challenges. We promote philanthropy in our region and support philanthropists to invest with impact. Through advocacy, research, policy and grantmaking, we seek systemic solutions to drive enduring community change.

*IT’S A WRAP FOR GILROY FOUNDATION’S YOUTH BOARD!*

The final meeting of the year for the Youth Board was a Pizza Party. Students were recognized for their accomplishments throughout the year. Work will be underway during the summer when mentors and new student officers plan their 2022-23 calendar and monthly meeting topics.

Kudos to these students and their dedicated mentors.

*LEADERSHIP GILROY—A GREAT PARTNERSHIP!*

When Gilroy Foundation hired Renee Garcia as an Administrative Assistant/Grants Coordinator with Gilroy Foundation and Latino Family Fund, we wanted to give her a leg up as she learned about the community she
I asked Renee to give us some insight into a typical Leadership Gilroy session and she shared details of their March 25th gathering. That Friday, their class of 22 listened to three guest speakers from the community: Sandra Cruz, South County Youth Task Force; Karine Decker, City of Gilroy Economic Development Manager; and Visit Gilroy’s Jane Howard.

During the afternoon session, small groups visited local organizations. Renee and her group went to the VFW/ American Legion Hall, Post #217 to learn about the resources they offer; then they met with Mattie Scariot, Director of the Poppy Jasper International Film Festival, to learn more about this all-volunteer led organization. The day’s session concluded with each participant summarizing their site visit and their reactions to what they saw and learned that day.

Leadership Gilroy is a program of the Gilroy Leadership & Education Foundation, a public benefit, 501(c)3 non-profit organization. The founding board sponsored its first Leadership Gilroy class in January of 1998. Today, the foundation strives to continue the goal of building strong leaders who are passionate about our community. We are delighted that Renee is learning so much about our community—her participation benefits our entire staff.

PROTECT WHAT MATTERS MOST, NOW AND ALWAYS

With so much uncertainty over these past few years, Gilroy Foundation’s Mission—to establish a legacy of giving by linking charitable gifts from donors to the vital needs of the community—is of extreme importance.

Creating a PLANNED GIFT is a powerful way to make a lasting impact and legacy with us that won’t cost you anything today.

We hope you will join the many people who have included Gilroy Foundation in their will, trust or beneficiary designations. Letting your wishes be known is a very important step to take. Protect what matters to you most, and have a plan in place.

You can read more about how to Leave a Legacy on our website.

OPERATION FREEDOM PAWS, one of Gilroy Foundation's Nonprofit Investment Partners, will be hosting a Golf Tournament that they want you to know about!
"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.