

May 2024

## **GILROY FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER**



### **Sponsorship Opportunities Available for Gilroy Foundation Annual Fundraiser**

We are delighted to extend an invitation to you to be a part of Gilroy Foundation's annual fundraiser. This year promises to be an unforgettable evening as we present "Illuminate the Night" Candlelight Concert at Gavilan College Theater on Saturday, September 14.

Our annual fundraiser is a crucial initiative for us as it helps raise funds to support the invaluable programs of Gilroy Foundation. Since its establishment in 1980, Gilroy Foundation has awarded more than \$18.5 million in grants and scholarships, making a significant impact on the lives of countless individuals.

We are thrilled to offer you the opportunity to become a sponsor of "Illuminate the Night" set in the beautiful foothill campus of Gavilan College. The evening will also feature an auction and appetizers. There are various sponsorship levels available, each of which presents unique benefits and recognition for your generosity.

To learn more about these opportunities or to donate an auction item, please contact our office or email [sceballos@gilroyfoundation.org](mailto:sceballos@gilroyfoundation.org). Thank you for considering this invitation, and we look forward to the possibility of partnering with you to make "Illuminate the Night" 2024 a tremendous success.

Stay tuned for more details and ticket information coming soon!

### **Scholarships Awarded to Gilroy Students**

This month, Gilroy Foundation awarded \$495,950 in scholarships to Gilroy graduating seniors and community college transfer students.

Scholarships were presented at the awards ceremonies at the four Gilroy high schools, Gilroy High School, Christopher High School, Dr. TJ Owens Gilroy Early College Academy, and Mt. Madonna High School.

Students submitted nearly 850 scholarship applications this year - up from last year's total of 467, including a 40 percent increase in applications from Gilroy High School. Each scholarship application is thoroughly reviewed by our volunteer readers and carefully evaluated and ranked. The highest-ranked applications are then reviewed by our newly formed Board of Directors Scholarship Equity Committee to ensure that as many Gilroy students as possible are being awarded scholarships.

Congratulations to all the scholarship recipients! We wish them well in their future endeavors! Thank you to the GUSD counselors, our volunteer readers, and all of our generous donors who make our scholarships possible. For more information about current scholarships, visit [www.gilroyfoundation.org](http://www.gilroyfoundation.org).

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### **Youth Board Applications Open**

Are you a middle school or high school student looking to make an impact in your community? Consider joining the 2024-25 Gilroy Foundation Youth Board!

Becoming involved with this volunteer board gives youths the opportunity to give back to their community, learn the basics of grant giving, and build friendships. Visit [www.gilroyfoundation.org](http://www.gilroyfoundation.org) to apply to be part of this incredible opportunity. For more information, email your questions to [sceballos@gilroyfoundation.org](mailto:sceballos@gilroyfoundation.org).



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### **Gilroy Foundation Welcomes Back Summer Intern**

Maya King, a Christopher High School graduate and student at U.C. Berkeley, returns to Gilroy Foundation as a summer intern.

Gilroy Foundation welcomes Maya's return for the summer. She just finished up her first year at U. C. Berkeley where she's studying Environmental Economics and Policy. She'll be assisting Gilroy Foundation with GilroyTHRIVES, a bold new initiative made possible by a grant from the San Francisco Foundation through the Great Communities Collaborative.

GilroyTHRIVES embodies our commitment to a future where everyone in our community can prosper. With this strategic grant, we aim to enhance transportation, expand affordable housing, boost economic opportunities, and ensure a resilient Gilroy for generations to come. Through this support, we are committed to creating a future where Gilroy thrives as a beacon of social equity, economic prosperity, and environmental sustainability.

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### **Bress Family Fund Grants Awarded**

The Bress Family Fund awarded two grants to teachers at Gilroy High School this month.

The grants were awarded to the GHS Physics Department for a second set of data collection devices for the Physics lab and to the GHS Art Department for a ton of clay for the Ceramics classes.

Thank you to Rhoda Bress and her family for supporting teachers and students at Gilroy High School. Since 2013, the Bress Family Fund Grant Program has awarded grants to Gilroy High School teachers who are enriching and enhancing instruction in courses offered during the school day. Funds have been given to a wide range of departments, including science, world languages, biotechnology, art, special education, and video production.

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### **New Latino Family Fund Executive Director**

Gilroy Foundation is delighted to announce that Renee Garcia has been selected as the new Executive Director of Latino Family Fund.

Renee brings with her a wealth of experience from Gilroy Foundation and Latino Family Fund and possesses an unwavering dedication to serving the Latino community.

Join us in congratulating Renee as she leads Latino Family Fund into a new era of empowerment by advocating, partnering, and strengthening Gilroy's Latino Community. Renee has accepted each new challenge head-on and has delivered on projects, initiatives, and strategic planning while working with her board of Officers as Interim Executive Director for the last year. It is her goal to advance the Fund to the next level by accepting the role of

Executive Director. She looks forward to each new challenge every day to see where she can help expand on LFF's mission.

Have a question or comment about one of the topics shared in this newsletter? Send it to [info@gilroyfoundation.org](mailto:info@gilroyfoundation.org).  
We look forward to reading your feedback!



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