

January 2025

GILROY FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

Scholarship Applications Open

Attention Class of 2025 - our scholarship applications are open! We have more than 100 scholarships available for graduating seniors and college transfer students in Gilroy.

Scholarships range from \$500 to \$50,000, with a wide range of criteria. Applications are available at www.goingmerry.com. The deadline to submit applications is Friday, March 7.

For a current list of scholarships and their criteria [CLICK HERE](#).

For questions and more information, contact Kelly Barbazette, Programs Coordinator, at kbarbazette@gilroyfoundation.org.

South County Nonprofit Convening



Nearly 70 leaders of non-profit groups in South County gathered on January 8 in downtown

Gilroy to share ideas and collaborate during our second South County Nonprofit Convening.

Hosted by Gilroy Foundation in partnership with Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County, the event allowed non-profit leaders to participate in interactive workshops and meaningful discussions aimed at building a stronger non-profit sector in the communities of Gilroy, San Martin, and Morgan Hill.

Thank you to all of our attendees, including representatives from Silicon Valley Community Foundation and Sobrato Philanthropies, Gilroy Mayor Greg Bozzo, and Santa Clara County Supervisor Sylvia Arenas. Thank you as well to Neon Exchange for hosting our event and Kneaded Bakery and Catering for providing the delicious lunch.

We're excited about the collaborations that will grow from this event and look forward to hosting the next Nonprofit Convening soon.

Don't worry if you missed out this time! Stay tuned for information about our next one and message us if you'd like to be included.

2025 Competitive Grant Cycle Update

We received an incredible response to our 2025 Competitive Grant Cycle, receiving more than 75 applications for our Competitive Grants, including our Youth Board Grant, the Julie Hayes Performing Arts Grant, and the Richard Hayes Career Technical Education Grant.

Thank you to everyone who submitted a grant application. More than 35 percent of the applications came from non-profit groups applying for the first time.

Gilroy Foundation is committed to a fair and equitable review process. Our volunteer readers have finished reviewing grant applications. Next month, our Board of Directors Grants Equity Committee will review the highest ranked applications to determine that grants are awarded fairly and equitably. Applicants will be notified in March and funds will be dispersed in April.

For more information about the Gilroy Foundation Competitive Grant Cycle, visit our website's [Grants Page](#). Questions? Email Kelly Barbazette, Programs Coordinator, at kbarbazette@gilroyfoundation.org.

Board of Directors Sets Goals for 2025

Our Board of Directors held its annual Planning Session earlier this month to set goals and priorities for 2025.

The 11-person Board, including our three new Board members, met for half a day on January 25 with our Executive Director Jaci Muro to plan for the new year. Topics included updating our Strategic Plan, planning for our annual fundraiser, and setting Board committee assignments.

We're grateful for the dedication of our Board and are excited for the year ahead!

Make Your Impact in 2025!

Missed your chance to give in 2024? Now is the perfect time to make a difference in 2025!

With your first gift of 2025, you can create opportunities, foster growth, and uplift the nonprofits and communities we serve in South County.

Here's what your support helped accomplish in 2024:

- Awarded more than \$450,000 in grants to support education, health, the arts, and more.
- Awarded more than \$495,000 in scholarships to support local high school seniors and transfer students in higher education.
- Funded programs that directly impacted thousands of individuals and families in Gilroy, San Martin, and Morgan Hill.
- Partnered with 60+ nonprofits to build a stronger, more resilient community.

Your gift helps ensure South County non-profit groups have the resources they need to thrive, serving the families and communities that rely on them most.

Let's make 2025 a year of impact, collaboration, and hope. Together, we can build a stronger future for South County. Make your first gift of 2025 today!

Youth Board Update

Our Youth Board earlier this month learned about our 2025 Competitive Grant Cycle and the various types of grants Gilroy Foundation awards.

Kelly Barbazette, Programs Coordinator, gave an overview of our 2025 Competitive Grant Cycle at the January Youth Board meeting.

Each year, the Youth Board reviews applications for its Youth Board Competitive Grant, which awards up to \$1,000. This year, the Youth Board received three applications. Youth Board members will review the grant applications at their February meeting.

For more information about the Gilroy Foundation Youth Board, contact Sierra Ceballos, Executive and Programs Assistant, at sceballos@gilroyfoundation.org.

Learn More About Our Legacy Society

For many, a gift from their estate is the most meaningful gift. It preserves their family name and creates a charitable legacy that supports the causes in their community. Through our Legacy Society, you can provide funding in perpetuity for the causes you are most passionate about.

Do you want to protect open space? Boost services for senior citizens? Help build affordable housing? Your legacy gift can create a field-of-interest fund at Gilroy Foundation, and we will ensure grants are made each year to the organizations doing the best work in that field.

We thank the members of our Legacy Society for their foresight and commitment to Gilroy. If you're interested in learning more about our Legacy Society, contact Executive Director Jaci Muro.

Gilroy Assistance League Accepting Grant Applications

Gilroy Assistance League is accepting Grant Request Applications through February 21. The organization considers grant requests that directly benefit youth organizations, programs, and schools in Gilroy, San Martin, and Morgan Hill. This year, Gilroy Assistance League projects to award about \$35,000 in grants. Funds will be awarded in late April.

A formal Grant Request Application must be completed and returned no later than February 21. To apply for a grant or learn more about supporting the Gilroy Assistance League grants program, go to www.GilroyAssistanceLeague.org/grants.

Gilroy Assistance League is a non-profit organization whose mission is to promote the welfare and development of youths in South Santa Clara County. The non-profit organization raises funds primarily through its annual Home + Garden Tour, which is held each spring on the Friday and Saturday of Mother's Day Weekend. This year marks the 20th Anniversary of the Home Tour. It takes place on May 9 and 10.

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



Gilroy Foundation
(408) 842-3727
60 4th St UNIT 208
Gilroy, CA 95020
www.gilroyfoundation.org

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