



GILROY
FOUNDATION

IMPACT REPORT 2024

A 501(c)(3) nonprofit benefit corporation | Tax ID #94-2719281

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Jaclyn Muro
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Vito Mercado
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A MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, JACLYN MURO

Dear Friends,

Each year, I'm reminded that true impact doesn't happen all at once. It's built moment by moment, through trust, partnership, and the shared desire to see our community thrive.

This past year marked a defining chapter for the Gilroy Foundation. What began as a grantmaking institution with deep roots in scholarships and community giving has grown into something more: a central partner in shaping the future of South County.

We have deepened our role in initiatives that aim to create lasting systems change, especially in areas like early childhood literacy. We've served as a connector and convener, bringing together nonprofit leaders, funders, and local families to move big ideas forward. We've also strengthened our financial stewardship, earning the trust of organizations that look to us not just to distribute funds, but to manage them with transparency and care. Regional funders have recognized this growth, choosing to invest in Gilroy Foundation not only because of what we do, but because of how we do it. With every new partnership, every shared vision, and every family or student who benefits from our work, our mission becomes clearer: we're here to help this community realize its fullest potential.

Above all, this year has been about listening. Listening to our donors, our nonprofit partners, and our community members. Their voices have helped us chart this course, and their stories have reminded us why this work matters so deeply.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Your support makes it all possible. I can't wait to see where we go next.

With gratitude,
Jaclyn Muro



A MESSAGE FROM BOARD PRESIDENT, VITO MERCADO

"Give Where You Live"

As a lifelong Gilroyan and longtime volunteer, I've come to understand that giving back to our community isn't just about contributing time or money, it's about showing up, being present, and investing in the place we call home. It's about building stronger connections with our neighbors, nurturing the next generation, and working together to create a community we can all be proud of.

Over the years, I've learned that real change starts at the local level. When you get involved, whether by lending a helping hand, offering your expertise, or simply listening, you begin to see how much impact a single person can have. You also realize how interconnected we all are and how our collective actions can shape the future of Gilroy for the better.

Volunteering with the Gilroy Foundation has truly opened my eyes to the heart of our community. The Foundation doesn't just support local causes; it uplifts people. From funding scholarships for youth to helping grassroots nonprofits deliver essential services, the Foundation is a cornerstone of community development, and it's a privilege to be part of that mission.

Through this work, I've gained more than just experience. I've developed a deeper sense of empathy, learned the importance of perseverance, and discovered the true meaning of teamwork. Every project, every initiative, and every conversation has reinforced my belief that when we come together, when we give where we live, we can build a stronger, more compassionate, and more resilient Gilroy. I encourage everyone to find their own way to get involved. Whether big or small, every effort counts. Together, we have the power to make a lasting difference.

Sincerely,
Vito Mercado



OUR STORY SO FAR

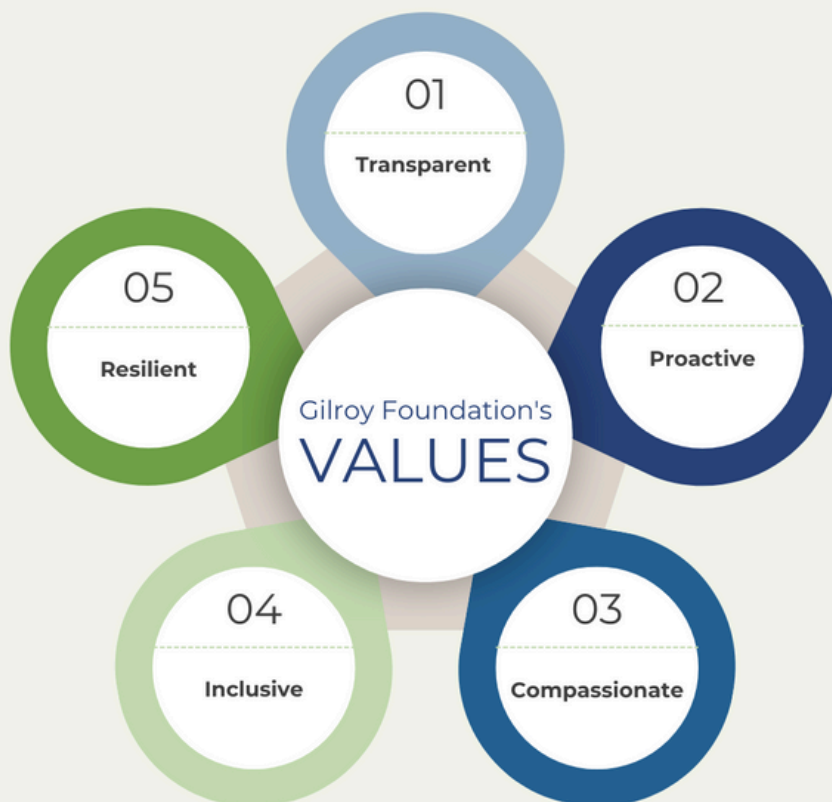


OUR MISSION

To establish a legacy of giving, Gilroy Foundation links charitable gifts from donors to the vital needs of the community

OUR VISION

By engaging all aspects of the community, Gilroy Foundation is the recognized leader in connecting resources to community needs



WHAT WE BELIEVE & DO

We believe that when individuals feel respected and included, they are more likely to be creative, innovative, and successful. We appreciate and embrace the unique qualities that define each person. We value the diverse perspectives and experiences that contribute to our mission and vision in supporting our local community. We are dedicated to integrating Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion into all aspects of our work. As part of our ongoing commitment to improvement, we provide training and workshops on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for our staff and board members.

We are committed to communicating these values to all involved, creating opportunities to listen to community voices, ensuring diverse and inclusive board recruitment and employment, and annually evaluating our progress in these areas. We apply this policy as a guiding principle not only in our daily operations but also in making grant and scholarship decisions.

SPOTLIGHT 2024

We're proud to highlight some of the key accomplishments that defined Gilroy Foundation's work this year—milestones and events that shaped our daily efforts and long-term impact.

This Annual Impact Report offers a deeper look into 2024, shared with you following the completion of our financial statements and annual audit. To view 2025 news as it happens, follow Gilroy Foundation on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#). It's a very exciting time at Gilroy Foundation!

1

South County THRIVES

In 2024, Gilroy Foundation proudly launched South County THRIVES, a groundbreaking initiative made possible thanks to a generous grant presented by the Great Communities Collaborative through the San Francisco Foundation. THRIVES—standing for Transportation, Housing, Resilience, and an Integrated Vision for Economic Sustainability—marks a transformative step toward addressing Gilroy's most pressing needs through bold partnerships and community-centered planning. Recognizing the urgent need for regional investment and equity, THRIVES aims to foster powerful public-private-nonprofit collaboration to tackle the structural challenges facing our community.

2

Grants and Scholarships

In 2024, Gilroy Foundation awarded \$612,089 in grants and \$495,950 in scholarships, supporting a diverse range of initiatives—from education and community services to arts and culture. These contributions reflect our ongoing commitment to building a thriving, inclusive community and responding to the evolving needs of Gilroy residents.

3

Annual Fundraiser: Illuminate the Night

In partnership with the Gavilan College Education Foundation, Gilroy Foundation hosted Illuminate the Night—a magical evening highlighted by a candlelight concert that lit up the night in more ways than one. We are deeply grateful to everyone who attended, donated, and supported the event. Your generosity will have a lasting impact on our programs and the lives of those in South County.

4

Youth Board

This year's Youth Board was a tremendous success, fostering youth leadership through philanthropy and service. The board led a thoughtful grantmaking process and awarded funding to PitStop Outreach and CARAS, two organizations making a meaningful impact in our community. With fresh ideas and a strong sense of civic duty, these young leaders are helping shape a brighter future for South County.

SPOTLIGHT 2024



5

Gilroy Nonprofit Sector Convening

Together with an inspiring community of nonprofit leaders, we embarked on a journey of unity, shared vision, and endless possibilities. We celebrated the strengths and opportunities that our community holds, and, more importantly, we discussed how to tackle the challenges that lie ahead. The event was a resounding success, filled with meaningful conversations and a shared commitment to building a brighter future for Gilroy.

6

Ambassador Program

Our Ambassador Program celebrates the dedicated individuals who help Gilroy Foundation grow its presence and impact throughout the community. This year, we had the pleasure of reconnecting with our incredible Ambassadors and Board members at our mixers.

We are deeply grateful to these passionate advocates for their ongoing support and commitment to our mission. Their time, energy, and community spirit help drive our work forward every day.

7

Community Relief Fund: St. Joseph's Family Center

Amid federal and state budget cuts, St. Joseph's Family Center faced uncertainty in funding their goal of providing 4,000 holiday meals. To help fill the gap, Gilroy Foundation contributed \$10,000 from our Emergency Community Relief Fund, supporting their mission to serve local families in need.

8

Internship Program

Our internship program provided valuable mentorship and hands-on experience for students last year, helping both the interns and Gilroy Foundation grow stronger together. We're proud to support the next generation of community leaders through meaningful guidance and real-world opportunities.

2024 UPDATES

STRENGTHENING CONNECTIONS: ADVANCING PARTNERSHIPS AND HIGHLIGHTING SOUTH COUNTY

This year, we're especially proud to shine a spotlight on South County, a vibrant and diverse community at the heart of everything we do. By highlighting the unique needs, opportunities, and stories of South County, we aim to elevate its presence on a broader stage. Together with our partners, we're ensuring that South County continues to thrive and grow as a key pillar of the larger Bay Area region.

As always, the Gilroy Foundation is grateful for the unwavering support of our community partners, whose dedication is helping us make a difference every day. With your continued collaboration, we look forward to creating even greater opportunities for those we serve in South County.

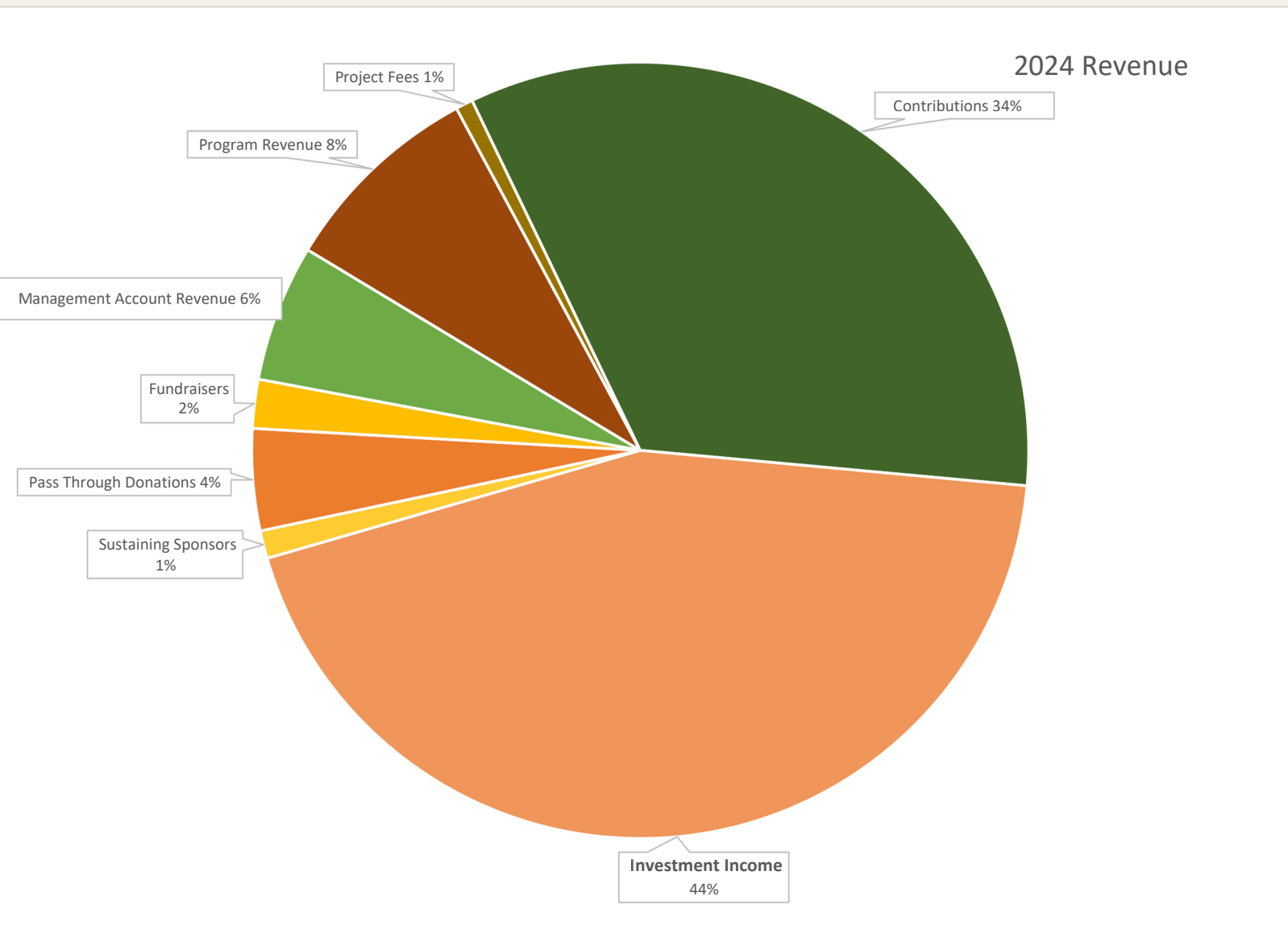
At Gilroy Foundation:

- We believe that when people feel respected and included, they can be more creative, innovative, and successful.
- We value the visible and invisible qualities that make all constituents who they are.
- We welcome that every person brings a unique perspective and experience to advance our mission and vision in our efforts to support our local community.
- We strive to include Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion practices at the center of all the work we do. In our commitment to continuous improvement, we will seek training sessions and present sessions on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion to Staff and Board members on an on-going basis.
- We commit to communicate these values to all our constituents; to create opportunities to listen to the voices directly from our community; to ensure board recruitment and employment is diverse and inclusive; and to assess the progress we make in these areas annually.

2024 REVENUE CHART

In our commitment to transparency and accountability, we are pleased to present the 2024 Revenue Chart for Gilroy Foundation. This chart provides a comprehensive overview of our financial activities during the fiscal year 2024, highlighting the various sources of income that sustain our mission and empower us to make a meaningful impact in the Gilroy community.

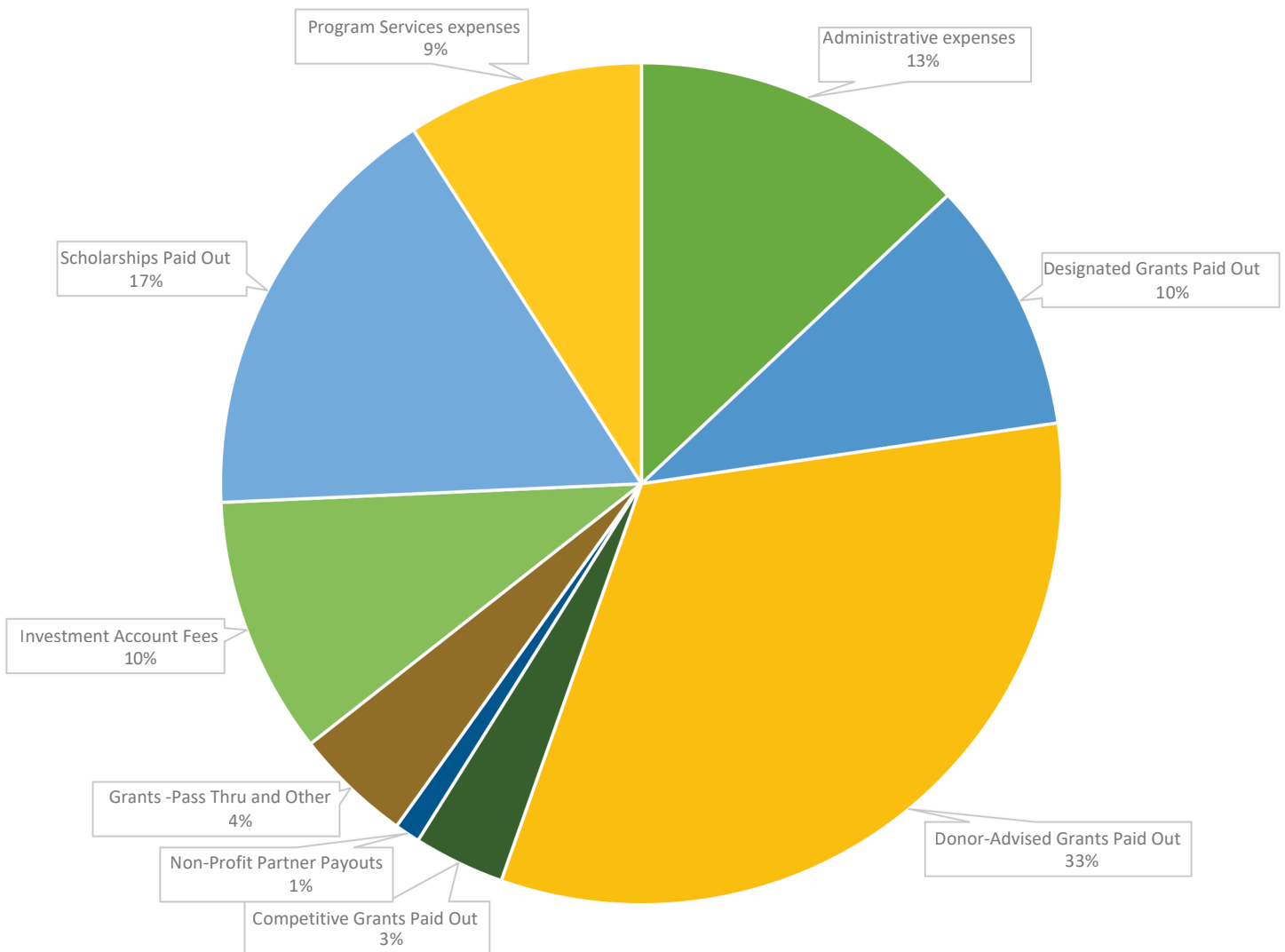
Every dollar represented in this chart plays a crucial role in advancing our mission and supporting the causes we hold dear. We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to all those who have contributed to Gilroy Foundation in 2024. Your support empowers us to enhance the quality of life in Gilroy and strengthen our community bonds.



2024 EXPENSE CHART

The 2024 Expense Chart reflects the responsible stewardship of funds entrusted to us. It outlines the various categories of expenses, ranging from administrative and program services to designated grants, donor-advised grants, competitive grants, and non-profit partner payouts. We take pride in our dedication to efficiency and effectiveness, ensuring that every dollar is directed toward initiatives that make a difference. Key highlights include substantial investments in scholarships and community projects, exemplifying our commitment to education, youth empowerment, and community development. These expenditures directly translate into opportunities, growth, and positive change in Gilroy.

2024 Expenditures



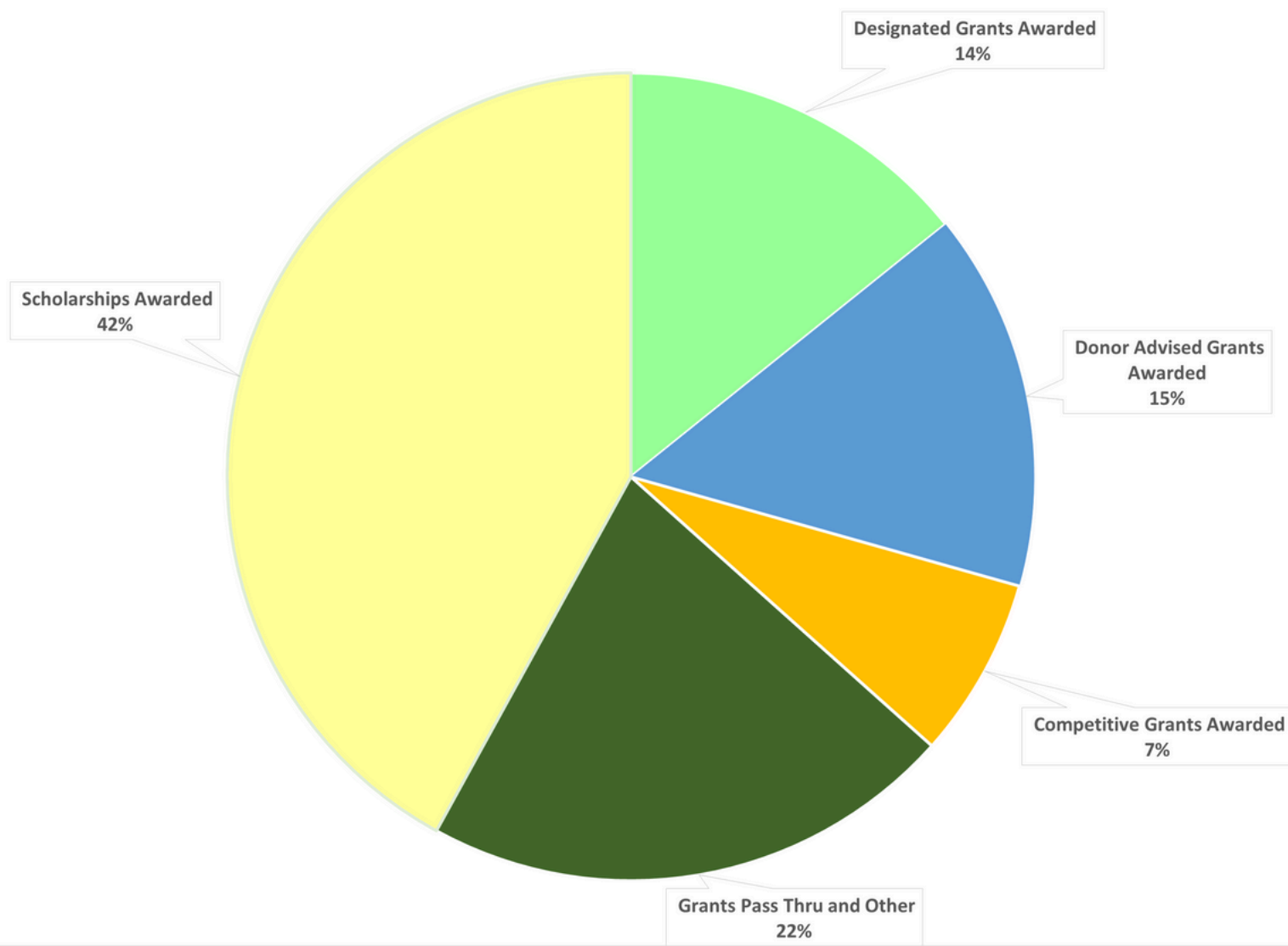
2024 GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

The chart is divided into distinct categories, including Designated Grants Awarded, Donor-Advised Grants Awarded, Competitive Grants Awarded, Grants Pass Thru and Other, and Scholarships Awarded. Each category represents a vital facet of our commitment to Gilroy's well-being.

Key highlights include the significant financial support extended to various projects and initiatives through our grants programs. This support fosters community development, encourages creativity, and empowers local nonprofits to achieve their goals. Additionally, the scholarships awarded reflect our investment in the educational aspirations of Gilroy's talented youth.

As you peruse the chart, we invite you to recognize the real-world impact of your support and contributions. Each grant and scholarship awarded represents an opportunity, a stepping stone towards a brighter future. Together, we are making a difference, one award at a time.

2024 Grants & Scholarships Awarded



45

Years in Philanthropy

\$18.5 MILLION

Grants and scholarships awarded since 1980



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We want to take a moment to sincerely thank the amazing donors, volunteers, and the wonderful Gilroy community. Your incredible support keeps our mission alive and continues to inspire us to make a meaningful difference. Together, we've shown that when a community comes together with a shared goal and unwavering commitment, there's no limit to what we can accomplish. Looking ahead, we're dedicated to ensuring Gilroy's continued growth and success. Thank you for being the driving force behind the success of Gilroy Foundation. We truly couldn't do it without each and every one of you.



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WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT IN OUR PROGRAMS