GILROY FOUNDATION

Annual Impact Report

2025



Give Where You Live

GILROY FOUNDATION

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends,

There are moments in an organization's journey when growth becomes about more than numbers. It becomes about trust. About relationships. About the confidence a community places in you to help bring people together around a shared vision for the future.

For the Gilroy Foundation, 2025 was one of those years.

While we continued investing in the programs, scholarships, and nonprofits that make South County stronger every day, we also found ourselves stepping into a broader role. We became a convener of conversations, a trusted partner in regional collaboration, and a catalyst for new ideas that have the potential to create lasting impact for generations to come.

Throughout the year, we witnessed what is possible when donors, nonprofits, businesses, public agencies, and community members choose to work together. From supporting students through scholarships and investing in local nonprofits through competitive grants, to advancing early childhood literacy and strengthening partnerships across South County, every effort reflected a simple belief: our community is stronger when we invest in one another.

What makes me most proud isn't simply what we accomplished—it's how we accomplished it. We led with collaboration. We listened before acting. We built relationships before seeking results. And because of that approach, more organizations are looking to the Gilroy Foundation as a trusted partner to help move meaningful work forward.

As we look ahead, I believe we are only beginning to realize what is possible. The challenges facing our communities cannot be solved by any one organization alone, but together we have the opportunity to create something greater than the sum of our individual efforts. The Foundation is committed to continuing that work by connecting people, investing in local solutions, and ensuring philanthropy remains a powerful force for lasting change throughout South County.

None of this would be possible without the generosity of our donors, the dedication of our nonprofit partners, the leadership of our Board of Directors, the commitment of our volunteers, and the passion of our staff. Your belief in our mission is what makes this work possible, and I am deeply grateful for the trust you place in the Gilroy Foundation.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Together, we are not simply responding to today's needs—we are helping shape the future of our community.

With gratitude,

Jaci Muro
Executive Director
Gilroy Foundation

A Message from Rigo Vargas

BOARD PRESIDENT



Dear Friends,

As I reflect on this year, I am reminded that the strength of the Gilroy Foundation has always come from its people: donors who give with purpose, nonprofit partners who serve with dedication, students who dream boldly, volunteers who show up, and neighbors who believe that a stronger Gilroy is built together.

It is an honor to serve as the Board President during a year of continued momentum and meaningful impact. In 2025, the Gilroy Foundation continued to carry forward its mission of connecting generous charitable gifts with the vital needs of our community. Through grants, scholarships, donor-advised funds, designated funds, nonprofit partnerships, and community initiatives, we are transforming generosity into opportunity for students, families, and organizations throughout Gilroy and South County.

This year, the Gilroy Foundation invested over $1 million in grants and scholarships, supporting local and South County nonprofit organizations and providing scholarships for graduating seniors and community college transfer students. Behind every dollar awarded is a story: a student taking the next step in their education, a nonprofit expanding its reach, a family receiving assistance, and a community growing stronger because someone chose to give where they live.

Education remains one of the most powerful investments we can make in our future. Every scholarship awarded represents more than just financial support; it is a vote of confidence in a student's potential and a reminder that this community believes in its young people. Our grants are equally important, helping local nonprofits meet real needs in areas such as education, health, civic services, arts and culture, recreation, the environment, technology, and community well-being.

This year also highlighted the importance of partnership. Efforts such as South County THRIVES remind us that the challenges facing our region require collaboration, listening, and a shared commitment to long-term solutions. The Gilroy Foundation is proud to serve not only as a funder but also as a convener and connector—bringing people, ideas, and resources together to address today's needs while planning for the future we all desire.

I am deeply grateful to our donors, fund holders, nonprofit partners, Youth Board members, Ambassadors, staff, and fellow Board members. Your generosity and service make this work possible. Because of you, the Gilroy Foundation continues to build on a legacy of giving that began more than four decades ago and has now contributed over $19.6 million in grants and scholarships since 1980.

As we look ahead, I invite you to continue giving where you live—sharing your time, ideas, resources, and heart with this community. Together, we can keep opening doors, strengthening connections, and creating a lasting impact for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Rigo Vargas
Board President
Gilroy Foundation

Our Story



Mission

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



Vision

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



Impact

We value the diverse perspectives and experiences that contribute to our work. We listen to community voices and apply these commitments in all programs, grants, scholarships, and strategic projects

2025 Spotlight

GILROY FOUNDATION

Community Support in Action

Grants and Scholarships

In 2025, Gilroy Foundation awarded nearly $500,000 in grants, supporting a diverse range of community-driven programs and projects — from health care and food insecurity to education and arts and culture, and $511,200 in scholarships. This investment reflects our growing commitment to working together across South County to build long-term opportunity and support the organizations and people who make our community stronger.

Ambassador Program

Our Ambassador Program is made up of the dedicated individuals who support our mission and play a crucial role in helping us continue to make a positive difference. This year, we had the pleasure of reconnecting with our incredible Ambassadors at quarterly mixers held throughout the community. We sincerely appreciate everyone who has supported Gilroy Foundation through their volunteerism this year.

Susie Seledon Literacy Fund, a Partnership with Dolly Parton Imagination Library

Partnering with the Santa Clara County Library District and Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, Gilroy Foundation launched the Susie Seledon Literacy Fund—a gift of love and legacy for Gilroy's children. Families may register their children ages 0 to 5 to receive a free, high-quality book every month—delivered right to their doorstep in English or Spanish. This dream began with longtime Gilroy resident Ed Seledon, who created the Fund in memory of his wife, Susie. Her legacy ensures that every child in Gilroy has the chance to build a lifelong love of reading, imagination, and opportunity.

Susie Seledon Literacy Fund

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Santa Clara County



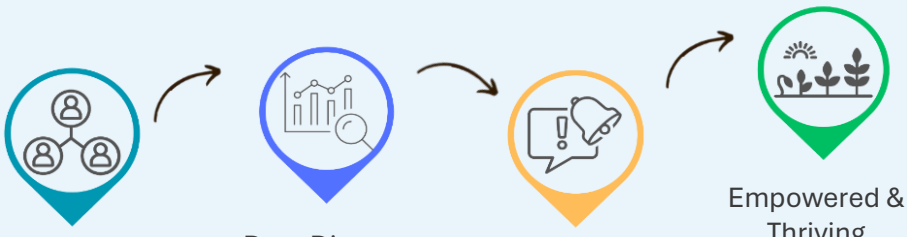
More from 2025

GILROY FOUNDATION

South County THRIVES

Launched in 2024, South County THRIVES expanded in 2025 by hosting convenings throughout the year to gather ideas and share opportunities to help this exciting project move forward. South County THRIVES is a multi-sector initiative addressing some of our community's most pressing needs, including housing, education, health and workforce development. Supported by the San Francisco Foundation's Great Communities Collaborative, Sobrato Philanthropies, Silicon Valley Community Foundation, and Resources Legacy Fund, the program aims to address structural challenges through community-centered planning.

THEORY OF CHANGE



GREAT COMMUNITIES COLLABORATIVE

SOBRATO Philanthropies

SVCF SILICON VALLEY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

RESOURCES LEGACY FUND
Creative Solutions. Lasting Results.

Youth Board

The Gilroy Foundation remains dedicated to fostering youth leadership through volunteerism and community engagement. The 33-member Youth Board had a fantastic year, learning about philanthropy, fostering leadership, and performing community service. Members led a thoughtful grantmaking process and awarded funding to PitStop Outreach, an organization making a meaningful impact in our community in the area of food insecurity. These young leaders are passionate about ensuring that the perspectives of the next generation are heard and shaping a brighter future for the community.

Student Internship Program

Our summer internship program provides hands-on mentorship for a Gilroy graduating high school senior. We're immensely proud of their contributions and proud to support the next generation of community leaders through real-world professional development.



Annual Event

Honoring our Farming Community

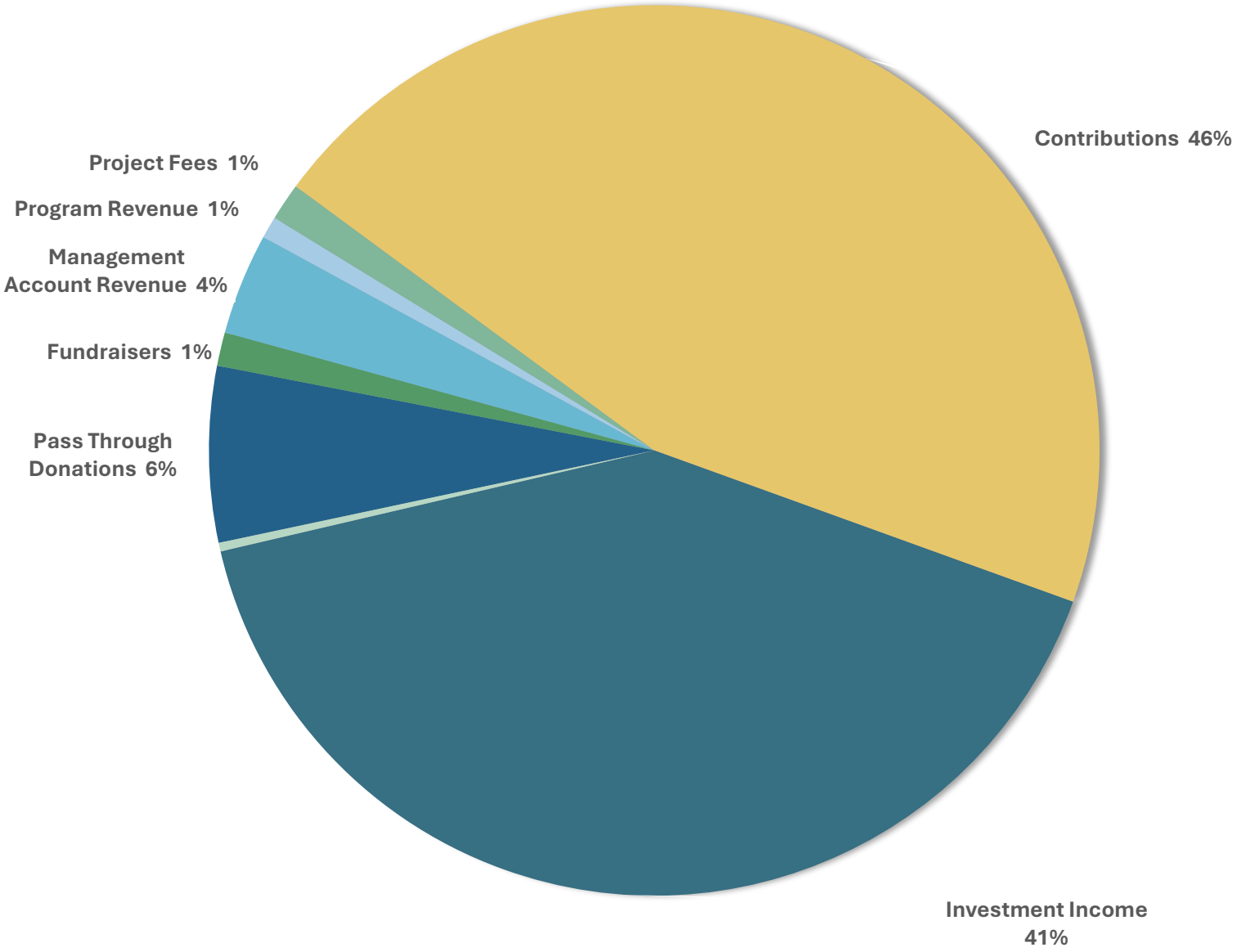
We paid tribute to Gilroy's farming families and farm workers and their contributions to our community's agricultural heritage during our Heart of the Valley annual fundraiser in October at Gavilan College. We give a heartfelt thank you to everyone who attended, donated, and supported our event. Our annual fundraiser supports our Grants and Scholarships programs and special initiatives.



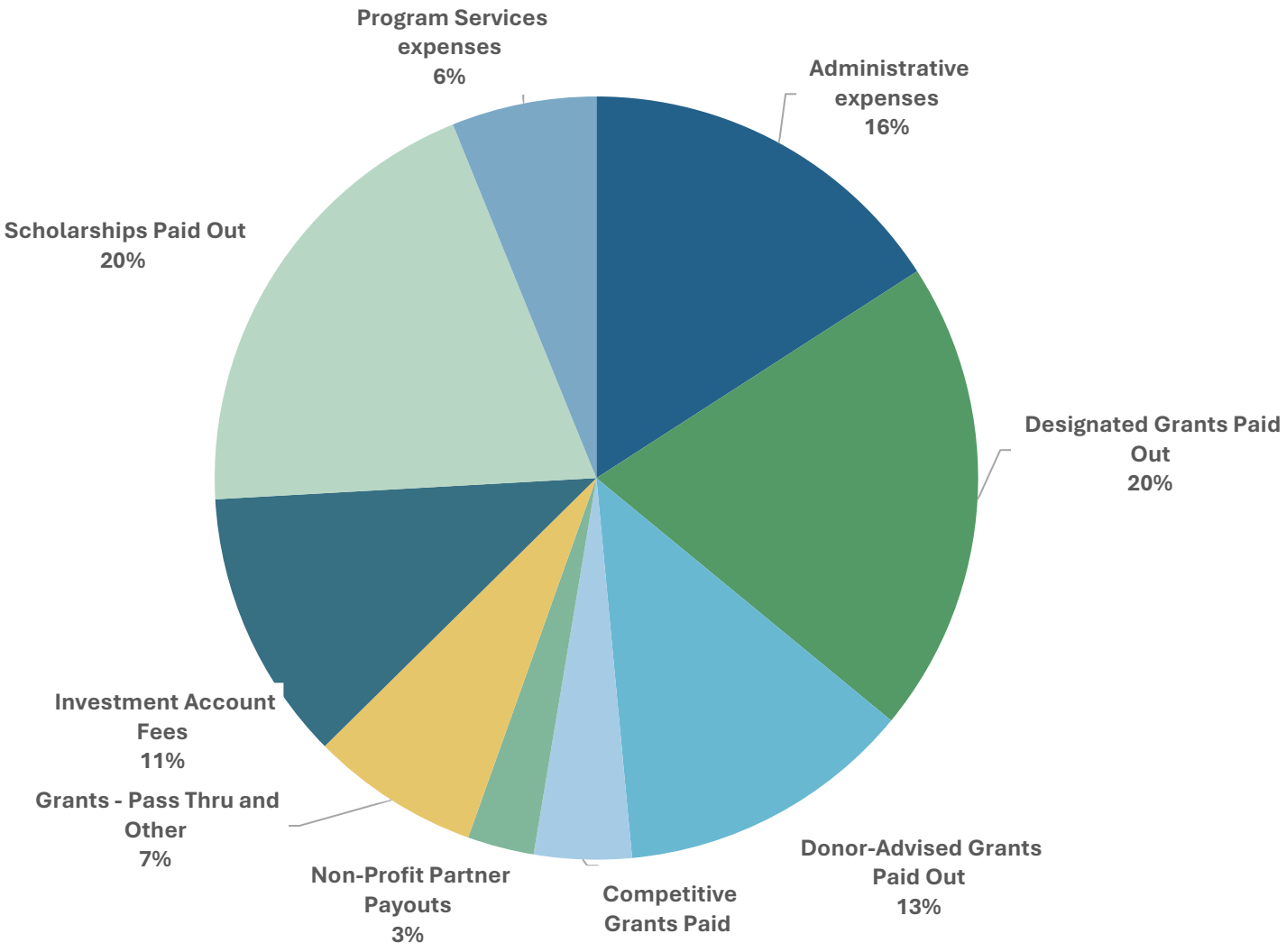




2025 Revenue



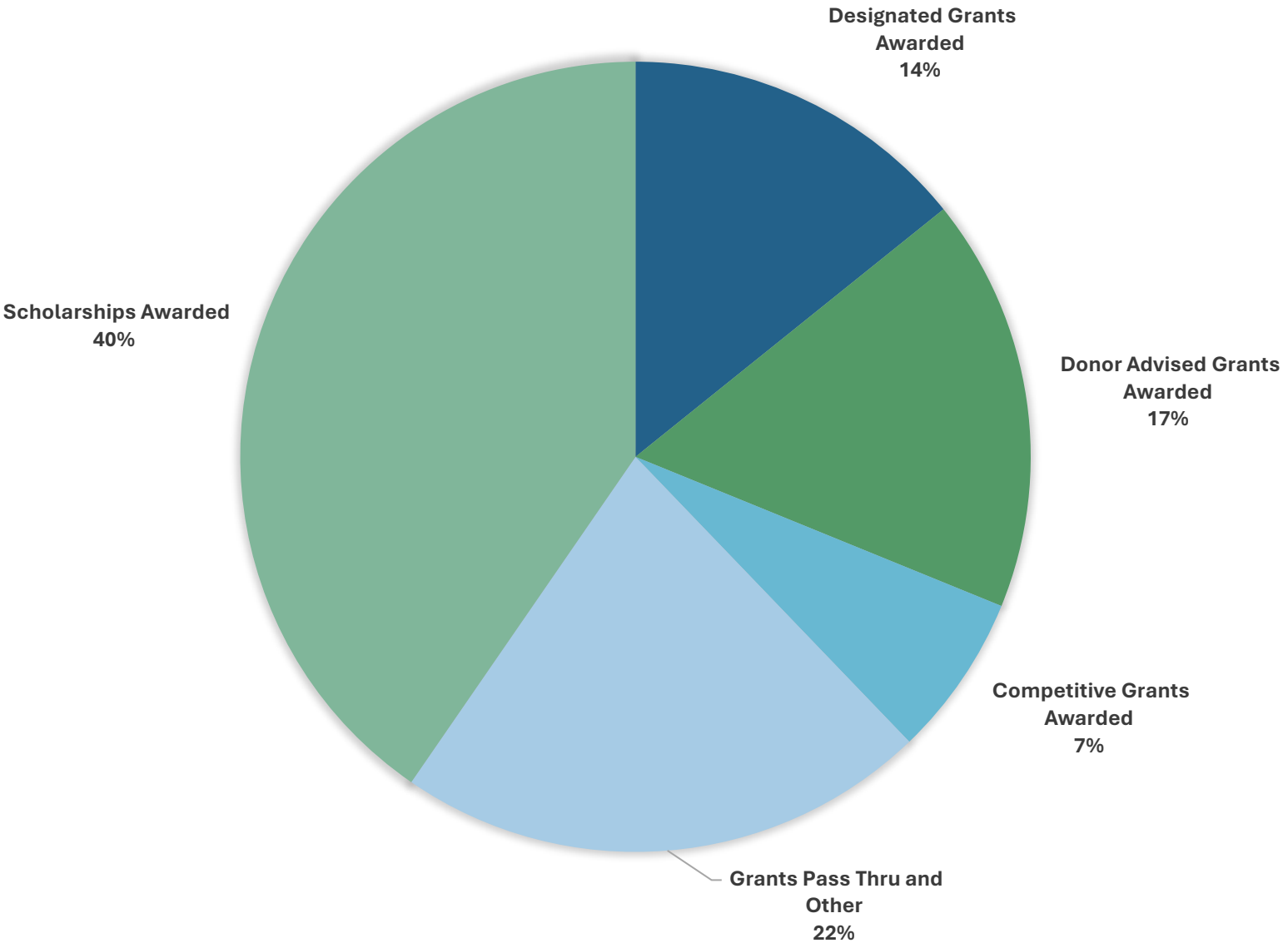
2025 Expenditures







Grants and Scholarships



$1,265,395

combined grants and scholarships awarded in 2025

A long view of local giving

46

years in philanthropy

$19.8M

grants and scholarships awarded since 1980

Strengthening connections across South County

In 2025, Gilroy Foundation continued to bring partners together and elevate South County's needs, opportunities, and stories. The work depends on local donors, nonprofits, funders, volunteers, and families who share a commitment to the region.

Give where you live.

Thank You



To our donors, volunteers, nonprofit partners, and neighbors:
thank you for the trust, generosity, and time you shared in 2025.

Your support helps Gilroy Foundation connect resources to community needs and invest in Gilroy's future.

Stay connected

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A community foundation connects local generosity with local possibility

GILROY FOUNDATION

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