

November 1, 2019

Trick or Treaters will be filling up on all of the loot they collected on Halloween, and Halloween Jack o'lanterns will turn into Fall pumpkins and cornucopias....early morning temps hover in the 30s while many in our state and across the U.S. are enduring raging fires, and freezing temperatures. But we have SO much to be thankful for each day as we turn the calendar page to November.

FROM THE DESK OF GILROY FOUNDATION'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

"Let our lives be full of both "thanks " and "giving".

We give thanks for our Board of Directors. This dedicated group of 11 individuals are a hands-on, working Board who are dedicated to making our community better every day.



We give thanks to our Ambassadors, who not only spread the word of Gilroy Foundation's mission and vision, but also serve on various committees making the work of the Foundation run smoothly.

We give thanks to our Youth Board, who is learning philanthropy and volunteerism every day.

We give thanks to our Emeritus Board Members, who helped to grow this Foundation to be a driving force of change and improvement in our community.

And, we give thanks to all our members and volunteers, of whose support we are so grateful.

We appreciate all the giving that happens at this time of year. There are so many worthy organizations to support through end-of-year giving, and we are so fortunate to be the choice of so many individuals, families and businesses.

And, this year, we are thankful for all the donors who have helped grow the Gilroy Garlic Festival Victims Relief Fund to over \$1.7 million. We are grateful to the Gilroy Garlic Festival Victims Relief Fund's Oversight Committee, who have spent many hours each week reviewing Victims' applications and advocating for each of the 20 known shooting victims.
#GILROYSTRONG



I personally want to thank Gilroy Foundation staff members, Vicki Campanella, Roya Wallace, Deb Sanchez and Debbie Russell for all they have been doing to support the Oversight Committee, our Board of Directors and myself over the past several weeks. And a special Thank You goes out to Lee Blaettler who spent weeks sending out donation acknowledgements to all of the generous Victims Fund donors.

Thank you all!

~Donna Pray
"Give Where You Live"

TEAM BUILDING WITH GILROY FOUNDATION YOUTH BOARD-*Roya Wallace*

The Youth Board's second meeting of the year was very well attended with 26 of the 33 students attending, along with three of the six Youth Board Mentors (Marilyn Ayala, Debbie Russell, and Mike Sanchez) gathering at Bright Ranch on Monday October 14.

The meeting began with a team-building exercise, in which one group of students were the riders, and the other group were the leaders. Together, the students traveled in a circle around the arena, with both groups relying on each other. The students then switched roles, so each student was able to experience a different aspect of the exercise.



Once the team-building activity had concluded the students posed for a group picture and enjoyed a pizza dinner. The meeting continued with a vote for the 2019-2020 officers of the Youth Board (President, Vice President, Secretary and Social Media Officers). Each candidate gave speeches detailing the reason behind their desire for the position, as well as their qualifications for the position.

Maana Kolagotla was elected President, Jamin Escudero was elected Vice President, and Danielle Russell was elected Secretary. There was a 3-way tie for the Social Media Officer position, so all three candidates were elected, as they each attend three different schools: Trevor Davis, Madison Emmert and Toni McIntire.

The Youth Board has a new [Facebook page](#) that the Social Media Officers will be in charge of. We hope you will check in out and follow this exciting group of future leaders! <photos>

GET READY FOR GILROY FOUNDATION GRANT CYCLE, December 1, 2019

On October 22, ED Donna Pray and Grants Coordinator Roya Wallace met with Kathleen Beirmann (Director of Curriculum & Instruction, Primary) and Deborah Padilla (Director of Curriculum & Instruction, Secondary) at Gilroy Unified School District to discuss the Gilroy Foundation Grant Process.

This meeting was scheduled to share details of the grant process in order that they would encourage all district Principals and Teachers to apply for grants when the cycle opens on December 1st.



If you know of a Gilroy nonprofit organization or teacher classroom/school that would benefit from a Gilroy Foundation grant, please share the December 1-January 31, 2020 grant cycle date with them and tell them to stay tuned for the launch of the grant applications on the [website](#).

GILROY FOUNDATION HONORED AT "BE OUR GUEST" LUNCHEON



Along with Rebekah Children's Services and Community Solutions, and the Bill Wilson/Centre for Living with Dying, Gilroy Foundation was honored at Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits 12th annual "Be Our Guest" luncheon on October 24 in Downtown San Jose.

ED Donna Pray the members of the Gilroy Garlic Festival Victims Relief Fund accepted the #GilroyStrong award in recognition of their collaborative response to the Gilroy Garlic Festival tragedy.

OUR OWN KAREN LA CORTE INDUCTED INTO GILROY HALL OF FAME

The Gilroy Chamber of Commerce and the Gilroy Historical Society honored four outstanding Gilroyans on October 26, announcing their induction into the Gilroy Hall of Fame....and one of them was our own Karen La Corte who serves as a member of the Board of Directors as Secretary and also as one of the tireless members of the Gilroy Garlic Festival Victims Relief Fund Oversight Committee.



We are so proud of Karen, the outstanding work she does in our own community, the friend she is to so many and ALL that she does for Gilroy Foundation!

Others recognized at the luncheon were Michael Bonfante, Tom Carr and Edith Edde. Congratulations to All!

HAVE YOU MISSED ANY OF THE LATEST NEWS FROM GILROY FOUNDATION?

Stay up-to-date with photos and news stories of Gilroy Foundation on our website. Each published article is archived on our website in [News](#) and a [Photo Gallery](#) has been created to help you stay in touch with us at Gilroy Foundation.

MAYBE YOUR'RE ALREADY THINKING ABOUT CHRISTMAS SHOPPING?

Or maybe you just do most of your own day-to-day shopping online through Amazon. Either way, you can ensure your purchases will benefit Gilroy Foundation in a small way....and EVERY donation makes a difference!



Check out the [link](#) on our Home Page and sign up now, designate Gilroy Foundation, and [AmazonSmile](#) Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases each quarter. Amazon will even give you a reminder to "shop AmazonSmile" each time you begin to shop!

"Give Where You Live"

As always, thank you to our Sustaining Sponsors





[Join Our Mailing List](#)

[Forward To A Friend](#)