



## IT'S GRANT TIME AT THE GILROY FOUNDATION!

It's been a pretty soggy February, but we managed to stay "above water" here at the Gilroy Foundation as we wrapped up the 2017 Grant application process. It's always an exciting time, as the grant applications pour in by mail and in-person delivery, with many calls and questions being fielded by Grant Coordinator Lissa Gaffney. Now, the grants are in the hands of the readers; and, once Board approved, 2017 grant recipients will be announced. The April 26 Annual Meeting and Charitable Giving Presentation is always a highlight of the year as we come together to award grant money.

But, where does this grant money come from? Executive Director, Donna Pray answered that question for us:

*Over the past 35 years, over \$5.4 million has been awarded in grants and scholarships. This year, we'll be awarding over \$1 million! Where does that money come from? It comes from you. Every time someone opens an endowed fund here, every time someone donates \$100 to become a member of the Foundation, every time you attend our annual A Day in the Country, every time you buy a Sangria at our booth at the Garlic Festival, YOU are helping our grant and scholarship program. Generous Gilroy donors use Gilroy Foundation as their philanthropic vehicle to support causes they believe in. But there are other needs in our community that must be satisfied and we use unrestricted dollars coming from you that assist those causes. We thank each and every one of you for "being part of the cause."*

## FACEBOOK POSTS SHARE SUCCESS STORIES

If you are one of our more than 1,000 Facebook followers, you may have already read some of the impressions of our Gilroy Foundation Ambassadors as they made site visits to a handful of 2016 Grant recipients. It was an opportunity for them to see first-hand how grant money was used; and a chance to the proud grant recipients to once again say "thank you" while demonstrating the difference this grant has made to their organization.

We are so grateful to our Ambassadors who volunteered time out of their very busy schedules (as the saying goes, "when you want something done, ask a busy person!") to contact the agency, schedule an appointment, visit and tour the facility, take photos and submit a written report on their visit. Thirteen agencies were selected for these visits. Here are just a few photos that demonstrated the value of the grant money received.



Teen Force



St. Joseph's Family Center



Live Oak Adult Day Services



Community Solutions



Las Animas/Project Cornerstone



Gateway School

## AMAZON SMILE

Keep on shopping, Friends of the Gilroy Foundation! It was a great holiday shopping season by the looks of our quarterly return from the Amazon Foundation-four times larger than past quarterly receipts! If you are an Amazon shopper, start your shopping at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com). Same products, same prices, same services-but once you designate Gilroy Foundation, we win, too!

## SILICON VALLEY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION (SVCF) BRINGS COMMUNITY CONVERSATION TO GILROY

On Thursday, February 23 Gilroy Foundation, along with Silicon Valley Community Foundation (SVCF), co-hosted an insightful and informative 90 minutes of information-gathering and sharing in the areas of immigration, education, building strong communities and economic security at the Gilroy Center for the Arts, a GF nonprofit partner.

Invited included government leaders; leaders in local business and education; organizations that serve the marginalized including St. Joseph's Family Center, Community Solutions, Rebekah Children's Services and Learning and Loving Education Center; representatives from the arts; and local news agencies.

Questions posed to the 34 attendees, broken into two focus groups were:

- What are the most pressing issues in Gilroy?
- How can SVCF add value and best engage to help solve the most pressing issues in Gilroy?

There was a wealth of rich feedback and a moving spirit of collaboration in the room that afternoon. SVCF is completing a summary and full proceedings document to summarize key themes and discussion points and we will keep our readers informed when those results become available.

## DID YOU MISS ANY OF OUR MONTHLY UPDATES?

An archive of past issues of the Monthly Update is available on our home page, <http://www.gilroyfoundation.org/>

## WHAT'S GOING ON?

Many of our nonprofit partners that Foundation friends might want to attend/support. We promote these weekly on our Facebook page. Look for upcoming events from:

**GILROY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS** Aleta George, Author Talk and Book Signing, Saturday, March 4, 2PM at the Gilroy Library

**OPERATION FREEDOM PAWS** invites you to an ALL YOU CAN EAT Crab Feed, March 11. Purchase your tickets [online](#).

**ST. JOSEPH FAMILY CENTER HOSTS "ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER**  
Saturday, March 18, 6PM <http://stjosephsgilroy.org/>

**HAVE FUN BOWLING WITH GILROY HISTORICAL SOCIETY!** March 25th at 2:00 p.m.  
Contact linda104@charter.net

**GILROY CENTER FOR THE ARTS** presents their 3rd Annual Exhibit and Celebration of Black History Month.

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