

**IT'S A NEW DAWN, IT'S A NEW DAY.....**

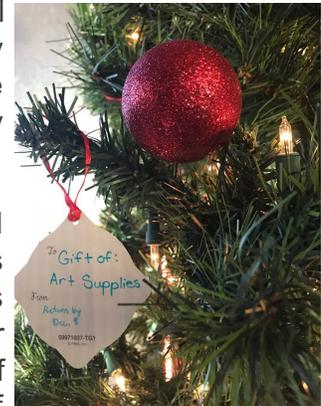
*Birds flying high, you know how I feel  
Sun in the sky, you know how I feel  
Reeds driftin' on by, you know how I feel  
It's a new dawn  
It's a new day  
It's a new life  
For me  
And I'm feeling good*



Michael Bublé sang it...and we're livin' it here at the Gilroy Foundation. 2018 is here and we have many plans to make it another banner year at the Gilroy Foundation! But first, here is how the year ended...

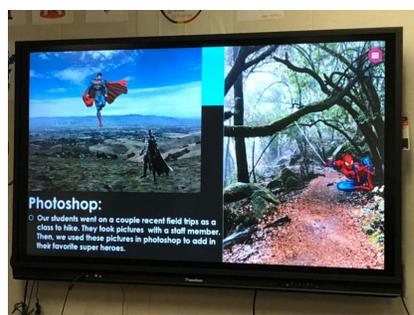
**WRAPPING UP 2017**

- Gifts were delivered to **Rebekah Children's Services**, thanks to the generosity of donors who took tags from the "Giving Tree" at Westside Grill and purchased gifts for the children. We are grateful to Gilroy Foundation Youth Board members, their mentors and to the management of Westside Grill for helping to make many children's Christmas wishes come true!
- The **End of Year Mailing/Membership Drive** yielded outstanding results for the Gilroy Foundation! \$13,924 has been added to Foundation General and Community Needs Funds. In addition, Fund Donors added \$262,000 to their own Family Funds. *Thank you for your generous donations.* If you are not already, would you like to become a Member of the Gilroy Foundation? [Find out how!](#)

**WELCOME 2018**

- The Competitive Grant Cycle will close today, January 31 at 5PM. *Did you know that in 2017 in the area of Competitive Grants, the Gilroy Foundation received requests for funding in the amount of \$404,229. Of that amount, \$90,144 was granted.* The needs are great in our local community, though funding is limited. As funds of the Gilroy Foundation grow, so does the ability to grant funding to these applicants.
- Gilroy Foundation [Ambassadors](#) (our eyes and ears in the community) made contact with twelve local agencies, chosen at random for the list of 2017 grantees to arrange Site Visits to view the improvements made with funds received during last year's Grant Cycle. This is not an "inspection" but rather an outreach beyond the April event when they are handed their checks. It's a chance to show how much we care for our community and those agencies affecting change.

Gilroy Foundation Ambassadors and Mother/Son team, **Karen and Matt Titus**, visited Rebekah Children's Services to view how the \$20,000 Richard Hayes "Industrial Arts" Grant funding received in 2017 was used to purchase three Prometheus Boards. The Boards are an interactive tool used to teach, taking the place of white boards, projectors and transparencies—and in some cases, textbooks!



These boards can be connected to hundreds of apps and software and are a great way to keep students engaged in activities and lessons. "Seeing the creativity the teachers use to keep students engaged is very inspiring, " report Karen and Matt. Additionally, the ability to link the boards to classroom computers, teacher home computers and cell phones makes creating lessons and uploading spontaneous ideas quick and easy for teachers.

- We received wonderful photos and a beautiful story of 2017 Scholarship recipient Ali Souza, her career at the Coast Guard Academy in Alabama and her return visit to Gilroy in January. Ali received the Kevin A. "Mike" Gilroy Scholarship and attended the early January Flag Ceremony at Gavilan Hills Cemetery where she visited Mike Gilroy's grave. Ali has been in touch with Mike's wife Patricia who hopes to visit with Ali when she travels to Alabama. Best of luck to you, Ali, as you move forward on your career path.



## • GILROY FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Gilroy Foundation is governed by a [Board](#) of eleven local community leaders and advised by an Emeritus Board and the Ambassadors of the Gilroy Foundation. The Board gathers annually at a Planning Session in January to review the past year and set goals for the year ahead.

We extend our gratitude to **Katherine Filice** for her service to the Board this term. We proudly welcome **Jay Baksa** as a new Board member and **Edwin Diaz** as Board President. Thank you for your service! Watch here for a short profile on each of our Board members.

This month, we feature **Marie Blankley**, a Gilroy Foundation Board Member since January 2017. We gave her a few simple prompts and here are her responses:

### **What motivated you to become involved with the Gilroy Foundation?**

*It's a well-respected and well-established organization that provides the necessary*

vehicle to get money where it's needed. By pooling donor funds, we can take advantage of larger returns on investment, thereby providing the organization as well as its donor-designated funds with greater philanthropic possibilities. I value the people I've met and the relationships I've developed by volunteering with the Gilroy Foundation.

**A "philanthropist" donates time, talent, and treasure. In what ways are you philanthropic with other organizations?**

*Time, talent and money are all necessary elements of philanthropy. Personally speaking, my husband and I support many organizations with treasure, a larger percentage going to our alma maters and education in general. Where I can locally, such as through Gilroy Rotary, St. Mary Parish, the Gilroy Assistance League, the Chamber of Commerce, the Italian Catholic Federation, and most recently, on the Gilroy City Council, I give time and talent in support of all that these organizations do for our local community.*

**What do you enjoy doing in your free time?**

*In my free time, with that little there is of it, I enjoy hiking with my dogs, sitting down with a good jigsaw puzzle or movie, hosting dinner parties, and spending time at the beach or on a cruise.*

*"Give Where You Live"*

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