

While many have been glued to their TVs watching their brackets explode during this season's college basketball "Dance," many others have had their eyes glued to grant and scholarship applications submitted to the Gilroy Foundation for consideration. Here's a behind-the-scenes look at the process.

GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Once the grant applications are submitted to the Gilroy Foundation office--we are strict with the deadline!--stacks are prepared for the six volunteer readers, who shall remain anonymous. They serve a term of three years and their tenure is staggered to provide continuity. After rating all of the applications individually, a date is set for the readers to come together for consensus.



The grant recipients are chosen and the amount of money distributed is 5% of the balance of our various funds. In 2018, 52 grant requests totaling \$194,157 were submitted for consideration as Gilroy Foundation General Competitive Grant requests, ranging from \$500 to \$5,000. Additionally, four applications totaling \$80,000 were received for the Richard Hayes \$20,000 Industrial Arts Competitive Grant and five applications totaling \$80,000 were received for the Julie Hayes \$20,000 Performing Arts Competitive Grant.

After the Board of Directors approves the recommendation, notifications to applicants are in the mail; and on April 18, grant recipients will come together to receive their checks during a brief ceremony at our Annual Meeting and Charitable Giving Presentation.

Overlapping a bit with the grant cycle is the reading of scholarship applications. There are nine volunteer scholarship readers--also anonymous--who are chosen from our Boards of Directors, Emeritus Board and Ambassadors, as are the grant readers. Notification to students receiving the awards will be sent in May.



YOUTH BOARD IN ACTION

Gilroy Foundation Board Member, Karen La Corte, spent an evening with the Youth Board who left that night's meeting with a better understanding of etiquette. Part of the evening's instruction was learning and practicing a firm handshake and talking more about developing their own personal "elevator speech." Passing on some important lessons to these young future philanthropists--thank you, Karen!



CITY AFFILIATES SHARE IDEAS

It was Gilroy Foundation's turn to once again host our fellow regional Foundations, called to gather by Silicon Valley Community Foundation's Director of Nonprofit Investment Programs Michelle Fries. Guests traveled from Palo Alto, Los Altos, Menlo Park and Hollister, so what better way to "show off" than to hold our meeting at the Gilroy Center for the Arts--where former Board member Katherine Filice's exhibit, "The Secrets We Keep" was on display!

Round table discussion brought to light some fresh ideas on Donor Engagement and Retention that day and we look forward to meeting again in the next few months to share and discuss.

DO YOU MATCH?

We like to brag that our donors are the BEST!

Not only do they contribute to the Gilroy Foundation, but they also take the extra step to see if their employer offers a CORPORATE MATCHING GIFT program that may double their total donation to Gilroy Foundation. Employees of Apple and Google are offered "2 for 1" matching gifts--do YOU work for one of these employers or know anyone who does.

Check with your company's HR Department to see if they have a matching gift option? Thanks for being a super donor, if so! If not, don't delay-- "[Give Where You Live.](#)"



HIGHLIGHTING BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBER JUDY LAZARUS, Past President

What motivated you to become involved with the Gilroy Foundation?

I learned about the Gilroy Foundation through friends and associate members when I was a member of the Garlic Festival Association. Gradually, I learned more about the Foundation and the support and services they provide for the community. Sometime later, I was asked to be an Ambassador; I got involved with "A Day In the Country" and a few years later I was asked to be a part of the Board of Directors, serving as President in 2016/17. The Gilroy Foundation has a stellar reputation and it has been an honor and privilege to be serving in any way I can to continue the legacy that so many others have built.

In what ways are you philanthropic with other organizations?

When my children were younger, I worked in their classrooms and with the Garlic Festival, giving my hours (and return much needed dollars) to those schools. Later, I dedicated much of my time and various skills to the Garlic Festival, the City of Gilroy's Art and Culture Commission, Gilroy Assistance League and, of course, the Gilroy Foundation. Each and every person is valuable in some way. What you get back in return is tenfold.

What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

Free time??? What's THAT?

I will always choose spending time with my family which has grown by six grandchildren in nine years. They keep me moving! I love Giants baseball, baking, gardening, running, board/card games. I'm a bit of a TV news/political junkie. And I love watching Survivor and Amazing Race.

NONPROFIT PARTNERS AND THEIR UPCOMING EVENTS

*Leadership Gilroy's 4th Annual Spring Fling

To purchase [tickets](#)

*Operation Freedom Paws 8th Annual Charity Golf Tournament

Details and [Registration](#)

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