

NORTH BAY
Business

BEST PLACES to WORK!



Winners

WHISTLESTOP (VIVALON)
FIVE TIME WINNER



Formerly known as Whistlestop, Vivalon's vision remains the same—ensuring that every adult has the opportunity to age with independence, dignity, and grace, by providing services such as specialized transportation, nutrition, social connection, information and assistance delivered through the power of human connection to a diverse population, the nonprofit states.

Beyond serving seniors and individuals with disabilities, services now include other vulnerable populations such as those dealing with chronic illnesses, the homeless, low-income families, those with food insecurities and isolation issues within communities.

“I am proud of our organization, our 170 employees and teams, particularly during the pandemic,” said CEO Joe O’Hehir.

“We have seen increased dedication, flexibility and commitment as we strive to meet the needs of more people in our community.”

As demand decreased for paratransit and contract services, drivers are distributing food at the nonprofit’s brown-bag pantries. Call center reservationists are making out-bound calls to isolated seniors instead of booking rides. The programs team is selling take-out meals instead of hosting guests at the Jackson Café. Classes and programs are being offered online and by phone to keep home-bound seniors connected and engaged. Vivalon’s Expanded Services Fund helped to provide life-saving emergency relief for at-risk groups in Marin County during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Employee benefits have been maintained during the COVID-19 crisis, regardless of hours worked. Those who worked one job, have stepped up to provide other services, allowing managers to provide more paid hours to staff.

Vivalon currently has 25 individuals in leadership roles and 52% of them were promoted internally.

“The organization is doing well and adapting to different ways of doing things. Our team successfully implemented numerous new programs, i.e., Great Plates, MC Grocery Delivery, Check-in Calls, Caring Calls and WhistleShopper,” an employee noted.