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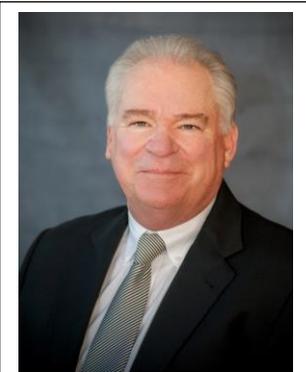


WHISTLESTOP ANNOUNCES UPCOMING RETIREMENT OF CEO, JOE O’HEHIR

*Thoughtful Leadership Transition Plan Initiated in 2018 and
Comprehensive Search for Successor Underway*

San Rafael, Calif. (June 5, 2020) – [Whistlestop](http://www.whistlestop.org), a San Rafael-based nonprofit that promotes the independence, well-being and quality of life for older adults and people living with disabilities, today announced the upcoming retirement of Joe O’Hehir as Whistlestop’s chief executive officer. O’Hehir will retire on February 26, 2021 after serving 12 years as Whistlestop’s CEO.

“Whistlestop’s long-term stability and success, coupled with strong forward momentum in its growth opportunities, make this the right time for me to transition from the organization and pursue a range of personal interests,” said O’Hehir. “It’s the vision and dedication of our board, the compassion and devotion of our wonderful staff and volunteers, the outstanding generosity from our donors, and the strong collaboration with our partner community-based organizations that have helped make Whistlestop what it is today. I’ve loved every minute of my role and will always be a proud member of the Whistlestop family. I am humbled to have had the opportunity to serve.”



*Whistlestop CEO, Joe
O’Hehir announced he will
retire on February 26, 2021*

Whistlestop’s Board of Directors and O’Hehir initiated an executive leadership transition plan in March of 2018. Highlights of the two-year plan include the appointments of Nancy Geisse as chief operating officer in January of 2019, Jeff Wands as chief financial officer in October of 2018, and Erick Villalobos as general manager of transportation services in October of 2019. Other plan highlights included the internal promotions of Ashley Baker to the position of chief people officer in July of 2018, and Yvonne Roberts to the position of chief donor relations officer in December of 2018. In addition, four new board members have recently been appointed, Paul Castro, Kevin Hogan, Douglas Reilly, and Stan Moore.

Whistlestop’s Board of Directors has begun a comprehensive search to select O’Hehir’s successor. The board retained [Envision Consulting](http://www.envisionconsulting.com), a consulting firm that specializes in providing leadership strategy and search solutions to nonprofit organizations, to lead the CEO search process, which is expected to continue through the end of 2020.

“On behalf of the entire Whistlestop board, I want to express our gratitude for Joe’s strong leadership, forward-thinking vision, and the value-based programs and services he has created and led with his team,” said Denis Ryan, Whistlestop’s Board of Directors president. “The impact of Joe’s many years of service has had a positive effect on Marin County’s vulnerable older adult population.”

“Marin County has been one very lucky community in having Joe O’Hehir as a calm yet forceful voice for developing services to older adults and people with chronic challenges,” stated Dr. Tom Peters, President & CEO of Marin Community Foundation. “Joe has shared with all of us the twin themes that are so apparent in his work: how to reach out to those most in need, and how to do so with utmost

humanity, care and skill. Add to that his leadership style of creativity, encouragement and perseverance, and it's clear, Marin is a markedly better and stronger community because of Joe O'Hehir."

During O'Hehir's tenure, Whistlestop has grown into a leading \$12 million nonprofit organization serving over 14,000 older adults and individuals with disabilities or chronic health conditions, and with a workforce of 400 employees and volunteers serving Marin, San Francisco, and Sonoma Counties. In March of this year, Whistlestop and its nonprofit partner Eden Housing received entitlement approvals to begin building the new state of the art [Healthy Aging Campus](#). The campus will include 67 units of 100% affordable senior housing along with a new Healthy Aging and Integrated Care Center in downtown San Rafael. The new campus is scheduled to open in 2022.

About Joe O'Hehir

Appointed by Whistlestop's Board of Directors in October of 2008, Joe O'Hehir has been providing executive leadership to nonprofit organizations throughout the San Francisco Bay Area since 1992. Prior to joining Whistlestop, O'Hehir served on the founding senior management teams of seven start-up organizations in the healthcare field. His efforts have resulted in two successful IPOs, a management-led leveraged buyout, and a corporate turn-around.

In 1998, *California Medicine* magazine identified O'Hehir as one of the leading health care entrepreneurs in its annual "Who's Who" list. In 2006, he received the Center for Nonprofit Leadership's prestigious "Heart of Marin" award for excellence in board leadership. For the past 16 years, O'Hehir has served on the governing board of the In-home Supportive Services (IHSS) Public Authority of Marin appointed by the Marin County Board of Supervisors. He is one of the Co-founders of the Marin Aging Action Initiative (AAI), now a network of over 250 stakeholder organizations with a mission to create aging equity for all in Marin. O'Hehir is also the co-founder of the Marin Aging and Disability Institute (MADI) in partnership with the Marin Center for Independent Living (MCIL) with a mission to enhance the delivery of care for older adults aging with a disability. He also served as Board Chair for Senior Access, now part of Jewish Family and Children's Services (JFCS), which is as a licensed day care program for individuals suffering from dementia and Alzheimer's disease. To learn more about Joe O'Hehir, please visit <https://whistlestop.org/joe-ohehir-chief-executive-officer>.

MEDIA PLEASE NOTE: To request an interview with Joe O'Hehir or Dennis Ryan, please contact Gus Nodal at (415) 609-3438 or gus.nodal@gmail.com.

ABOUT WHISTLESTOP

Founded in 1954 as Marin Senior Coordinating Council, Whistlestop promotes the independence, well-being and quality of life for older adults and people living with disabilities in Marin County. Whistlestop's Active Aging Center provides delicious meals, nutrition services, education and exercise classes, multicultural gatherings and helpful information and referral services. Whistlestop also provides special needs transportation services through both the Golden Gate Regional Center and Marin Access, a partnership of Whistlestop, Marin Transit and Golden Gate Transit. Whistlestop provides medical and grocery transportation through its CarePool program and operates Marin's Meals on Wheels and Whistlestop Nourish programs, serving meals to over 315 homebound older adults and people with chronic illness each week in the Marin community. For more information about Whistlestop and its services, please visit www.whistlestop.org.

ABOUT ENVISION CONSULTING

Envision Consulting is a minority-owned firm specializing in executive search, organizational strategy, merger exploration and executive leadership transitions. With offices in New York and Los Angeles, Envision Consulting's partners and consultants are former executive leaders within nonprofit

organizations who are truly inspired by their collective power to lift up the communities they serve. Their broad spectrum of services helps increase revenues, expand awareness and strengthen service delivery to the clients who need them the most. For more information, please visit www.envisionnonprofit.com or call 626-714-7577.

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