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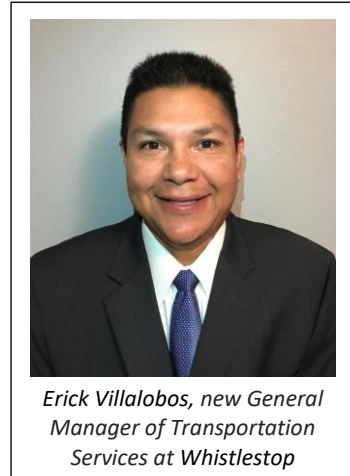
WHISTLESTOP APPOINTS GENERAL MANAGER OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES AND PREPARES FOR TRANSPORTATION DIVISION EXPANSION

Erick Villalobos Brings 24 Years of Robust Transit Experience to Whistlestop

Transportation Expansion to Include Medical Rides and Services Outside Marin County

San Rafael, Calif. (October 22, 2019) – [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 appointment of Erick Villalobos to general manager of transportation services. In his new role, Villalobos will report to Whistlestop’s chief operating officer Nancy Geisse and be responsible for the leadership and management of Whistlestop’s transportation services department. He will also manage Whistlestop’s current operating contracts and partnerships with Marin Transit, Golden Gate Bridge Highway & Transportation District, Transportation Authority of Marin, and other agencies and organizations with special transportation needs in Marin, Sonoma and San Francisco counties.

Villalobos’ appointment comes as Whistlestop, under the leadership of Geisse, is working to evolve its transportation services business model to include medical appointment rides and specialized transportation for social services agencies. Whistlestop is partnering with patient-driven healthcare organizations to improve patients’ health by providing rides to and from medical appointments and working with adult day centers and other social services agencies to safely and compassionately transport members with specialized needs to and from day programs. Whistlestop will continue to offer its full suite of specialized transportation services, including paratransit services in partnership with Marin Transit and Golden Gate Transit; free rides through its CarePool volunteer driver program; driver certification and training; consulting services for transportation program planning, evaluations and strategy; fleet maintenance; shuttles and charters; call center services; and driver contracts. Whistlestop’s expanded transportation services will extend beyond Marin and San Francisco Counties to Sonoma County in early 2020.



*Erick Villalobos, new General
Manager of Transportation
Services at Whistlestop*

“As Marin’s trusted specialized transportation resource for over 50 years, we feel it’s our responsibility to expand our transportation services to respond to changing community needs,” said Nancy Geisse, Whistlestop’s chief operating officer. “Erick’s extensive background in transportation brings a unique set of skills to Whistlestop that will help us meet our goal of expanding services to new populations, while also ensuring that our current customers continue to receive the specialized transportation programs they rely on every day.”

Villalobos comes to Whistlestop with 24 years of experience in parking and transit, most recently managing a fleet of over 85 vehicles and a \$40 million auxiliary annual budget, leading a team of 185+ employees. “I was drawn to Whistlestop because of its deep commitment to serving its community and because the values of the organization so closely align with my personal values,” said Villalobos. It’s a privilege to use the skills and expertise I have developed in the transportation sector to help make a

difference, and work alongside Nancy and the rest of the Whistlestop transportation team to grow Whistlestop's specialized transportation services so that no one is ever left behind."

Prior to Whistlestop, Villalobos held several positions at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) for over 30 years. Most recently, Villalobos served as director of UCSF Transportation Services, associate director of UCSF Transportation Services and security manager of UCSF Police Department. Villalobos holds Bachelor of Arts degrees in psychology and political science from Notre Dame de Namur University, and a Master of Business Administration degree from the School of Business and Management at Notre Dame de Namur University. He also holds certifications from the Smith System Driver Improvement Institute, Department of Transportation: Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration & Training, and UCSF Leadership Institute.

Villalobos' new role comes on the heels of other Whistlestop senior-level appointments. Within the past year, Nancy Geisse was appointed chief operating officer, Jeff Wands was named chief financial officer, Bill Cullison was appointed development operations director, and Stephanie Robison was named director of healthy aging services. Additionally, Yvonne Roberts was promoted to chief donor relations officer and Ashley Baker was promoted to chief people officer.

MEDIA PLEASE NOTE: To request an interview with Erick Villalobos or Nancy Geisse, please contact Gus Nodal at gus.nodal@gmail.com.

ABOUT WHISTLESTOP:

Whistlestop is celebrating 65 years of service in 2019! 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, educational classes, multicultural gatherings and helpful information and referral services. Whistlestop also provides special needs transportation services through Marin Access, a partnership of Whistlestop, Marin Transit and Golden Gate Transit, 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 classes and services, visit www.whistlestop.org.

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