

**Media Contact:**  
Jennifer Golbus, Vivalon  
[jgolbus@vivalon.org](mailto:jgolbus@vivalon.org)  
[www.vivalon.org](http://www.vivalon.org)



## MARIN TRANSIT TO END VIVALON'S WHISTLESTOP WHEELS PARATRANSIT CONTRACT EFFECTIVE EARLY 2022

*Community Rallies to Support Vivalon which has Provided This Service for 50 Years*

**San Rafael, Calif. (September 13, 2021)** – [Vivalon](http://www.vivalon.org), a San Rafael-based nonprofit formerly known as Whistlestop, that promotes the independence, well-being and quality of life for older adults and people living with disabilities, today announced Marin Transit's decision not to renew its paratransit service contract with Vivalon and conclude its partnership, effective February 1, 2022. Local and regional Marin Transit paratransit services through Vivalon's Whistlestop Wheels will continue without interruption until the end of a four and a half-month transition period.



Vivalon delivered public comment at the Marin Transit Board Meeting earlier this morning, joined by community leaders, paratransit riders and Whistlestop Wheels drivers. "Vivalon provided the very first paratransit ride in Marin County and we are disheartened that the high quality service and safety we provided to the community all these years is being replaced," said Anne Grey, Vivalon CEO. "We will do everything possible to ensure a smooth transition to the new provider, Transdev, and sincerely hope the community continues to receive the same level of caring, safe and reliable paratransit service they have come to rely on from Vivalon's Whistlestop Wheels."

According to Grey, Marin Transit's decision to end the paratransit contract will impact Vivalon temporarily but will not have a long-term negative impact on Vivalon's financial stability, thanks to generous supporters and the efficient management of resources. Additionally, Vivalon has been actively pursuing the expansion of its specialized transportation services over the past three years. Due to Marin Transit's decision, Vivalon will focus on that expansion to meet the growing transportation needs of the community.

Vivalon provided its first ride to an aging resident in 1968, and has been providing safe, reliable transportation for Marin's older adults and people living with disabilities ever since, connecting them to numerous social determinants of health including food, medical services, and social engagement for more than 50 years. "Our caring drivers give back to our community every day and their compassion and commitment is what sets us apart," said Nancy Geisse, Vivalon COO. "We are known for our consistent, high-quality services, and are a critical resource for Marin County and our most vulnerable citizens. We are disappointed in Marin Transit's decision, but we want to assure the Marin public that we are committed to continuing to provide rides and other safety net services to serve our community."

Vivalon Rides will continue to provide specialized transportation throughout Marin County and other parts of the Bay Area for older adults and individuals with mobility issues. Additionally, Vivalon Rides provides business transportation services, including shuttles and charters, fleet maintenance,

communications center services, contract drivers and more. For more information, please visit: [www.vivalon.org/transportation](http://www.vivalon.org/transportation).

**MEDIA PLEASE NOTE:** For questions or to request an interview with Anne Grey or Nancy Geisse, please contact Jennifer Golbus at 415-302-2368 or [jgolbus@vivalon.org](mailto:jgolbus@vivalon.org).

#### **ABOUT VIVALON**

Vivalon (formerly known as Whistlestop) has served as Marin County's hub for healthy aging for 67 years. As the largest nonprofit serving older adults and people with disabilities in Marin County, Vivalon helps these valued community members stay healthy, active, connected and informed with classes, workshops, and activities at its Healthy Aging Center; nutrition services such as home delivered meals through its Meals on Wheels and Vivalon Nourish programs and nutritious meals at its Jackson Café; and a variety of specialized transportation services. In addition to serving the needs of older adults and individuals living with disabilities, Vivalon provides services for other vulnerable populations, such as those with chronic health challenges and low-income families. For more information about Vivalon, please visit [www.vivalon.org](http://www.vivalon.org).

###