

# Community Coordinator

## Report

Nevada County

JULY - SEPTEMBER

A Triumphant Return – Looking Back

2021

2020

The Covid-19 Pandemic of 2020 deeply impacted Nevada County in just about every aspect of the lives of those who cherish this rural community located in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada. Individuals had to find new ways to stay connected to their loved ones, and employers had to think fast to keep their businesses afloat amidst state wide lock downs and new regulations around how they could operate safely.

Demonstrating its true grit and resilience in the face of uncertain times, across landscapes we had never before traversed, the actors of this community, some big, and mostly small, pulled together and overcame significant odds. This time last year Alliance for Workforce Development (AFWD) featured a story that detailed some of the strategies implemented in order to mitigate the effects of the pandemic, including marketing the distribution of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in eastern and western Nevada County, provided by 3 Core Economic Development District. AFWD made its own contributions, providing temporary positions with Hospitality House and Nevada County Facilities, at a time when unemployment was at 8%.

One year later, through vigilance, determination, and innovation, Nevada County is now showing numbers that are close to pre-pandemic unemployment rates, and businesses are showing growth in the Labor Force with an average of 6% across all industries. Alliance for Workforce Development continues to act in a supportive role, no matter the circumstance, connecting job seekers and employers in a productive fashion that encourages growth and resilience.



## Practically Meant to Be

When Jay was referred to Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) with a goal to recruit an Office Manager for his chiropractic practice in Grass Valley, he wasn't looking for just anyone. He needed an Office Manager that could interface with both patients and insurance carriers, conduct medically related tasks, and perform data entry, but his ideal candidate above all was going to be someone trainable, who could wear many hats, and pivot on a dime with accuracy and efficiency throughout the day.

In the mean-time, AFWD was facing some of the same challenges many other businesses were coping with in the community, with trying to re-open, and finding job-seekers. Never-the-less, AFWD was up for the task, and initiated a process to help Jay, starting with listing the opportunity on [www.northstatejobs.com](http://www.northstatejobs.com), adding the opportunity to the local Job Leads Packet, and including it in our weekly Hot Jobs Flyer, which then was circulated and distributed throughout various social media platforms to maximize exposure within the job seeking community.

When Raquel came to our office to use our Resource Room to look for a job, AFWD staff took notice of her motivation and keen eye for detail. In working with her for just one afternoon the Grass Valley Business Services Representative (BSR) Phelan Burns felt that



while Raquel didn't necessarily have recent professional experience as an Office Manager, in the medical field no-less, that would prime someone to perform the tasks and responsibilities that Jay was seeking, she could see that Raquel had enough work experience, and the essential soft-skills that would make her a great fit with Jay Chiropractic Clinic.

After telling her about the opportunity to see if she would be interested, Phelan referred Raquel to Jay with the new resume AFWD was able to help her build in the Resource Center and an interview was scheduled shortly thereafter. Because she didn't have all of the hard-skills and experience to be proficient in the Office Manager role, after deciding he wanted to offer her the position, AFWD was able to enroll Raquel in and On-the-Job Training (OJT), a program designed to be mutually beneficial to both employers and job seekers, and can often facilitate the initial hand-shake between great opportunities and great employees, leading to long lasting a productive business relationship.

Upon her two-week evaluation we found that Raquel is settling in nicely with the Jay Chiropractic team and has basically hit the ground running! We are thrilled to have been able to make this connection and look forward to watching this relationship flourish!

## Committed to Success



In current economic conditions, job searching can still prove to be difficult. Kristina came to her local AJCC struggling to find local work that matched her skills and abilities. She had been unemployed due to the ongoing Covid-19 Pandemic and struggling to find somewhere that she could be successful once again. She was attending interviews throughout the pandemic, but found it difficult to find employment. She did not give up hope, as she has always been committed to finding the perfect fit. Through the local AJCC she was able to get guidance on locating employment that would be a great match. An opportunity was presented to Kristina that she could not refuse.

Daniel Rosefelt & Associates, an attorney office was looking for someone on the west coast that could help manage their clients. They could tell that Kristina was passionate about her work and committed to be successful. She would be a key asset to their practice. Kristina was offered and accepted a position to be their Legal Assistant. In this role she is able to use her skills and knowledge helping and assisting others. Kristina was enthusiastic about gaining employment where she could do her best work in a time where employment is different and sometimes difficult. She was able to get assistance to achieve her goals of full-time, self-sufficient employment. Even when times seem gloomy, being committed to success will always be rewarding.

## Creating Balance

The value of one's home is easy to understate. Not only is it private property with a market value, but it is also someone's sanctuary, and with that comes costs to operate and maintain that space so it can continue to run efficiently and provide safety and peace of mind to the people that inhabit them.

When Dan Perunko and Gavin Healy founded Balance Point Home Performance, that's what they had in mind: They set out to provide an HVAC retrofitting service that surpassed the standard outcomes of other HVAC businesses in the community. Their holistic approach to heating and cooling one's home was unique in that they envisioned the home as an integrated system, that when done properly, had an outcome even more prized than a comfortable home on some of Nevada County's hottest days: Reducing the impact of HVAC technology on both the environment *and* the homeowner's wallet. They are respected, leading experts in their field, offering a portfolio of services to their customers from retrofitting projects, new construction, diagnostics and designing state of the art HVAC systems.

After delivering on their promise to provide quality HVAC services for several years, the co-founders were seeing the fruits of their labor in terms of the growth of their business and decided it was time to grow their team accordingly. They reached out to AFWD with the goal in mind to hire an individual who was detail oriented and willing to do the work necessary to provide the quality of service that was aligned with their brand.

When they decided to take on Jake West, who had no background in HVAC but demonstrated the transferrable skills to learn the trade and produce quality outcomes, AFWD was able to enroll Jake into our On-the-Job-Training program where we were able to reimburse Balance Point for a portion of his wages while they trained him. With Jake on board, Balance Point continues to provide top tier HVAC installation and home retrofitting services at a faster rate than ever, keeping members of the community comfortable year-round, both economically and environmentally.

AFWD is thrilled for their growth and expansion, and the success of adding a new member to their team!

The logo for Balance Point Home Performance features the words "balance point" in a bold, lowercase sans-serif font. A solid green circle is positioned behind the letter "o" in "point". Below "balance point" is the phrase "home performance" in a smaller, lowercase sans-serif font. The logo is centered on a white background with decorative curved shapes in maroon, orange, and blue at the top and bottom of the page.

balance point  
home performance

## Feel The Spirit

Allyson was referred to AFWD in April of 2021. She had not worked in over a year due to the current economic conditions caused by the Global Covid-19 Pandemic. However, Allyson took the first steps to get back on her feet by searching and applying for jobs. She found a position she thought would be a fit for her at Satellite Spirits/ South Fork Vodka, an award-winning producer of spirits, who is growing in the community.

Having previously worked with AFWD and the Business and Career Network Center, Satellite Spirits were aware about the programs offered and how they could assist their company. The folks at Satellite interviewed Allyson and were very impressed with her spirit and willingness to learn something new. They were willing to give Allyson a chance and hire her through an On-the-Job Training (OJT) to be their Administrative Assistant.

Since Allyson started at Satellite Spirits in May she has learned many new skills. Satellite reports that she is a self-starter and a great fit for their workplace. She continues to take on new tasks and makes helpful contributions. She is working full time, and making a self-sufficient wage. Her endearing spirit truly showed, and is felt throughout all she does.

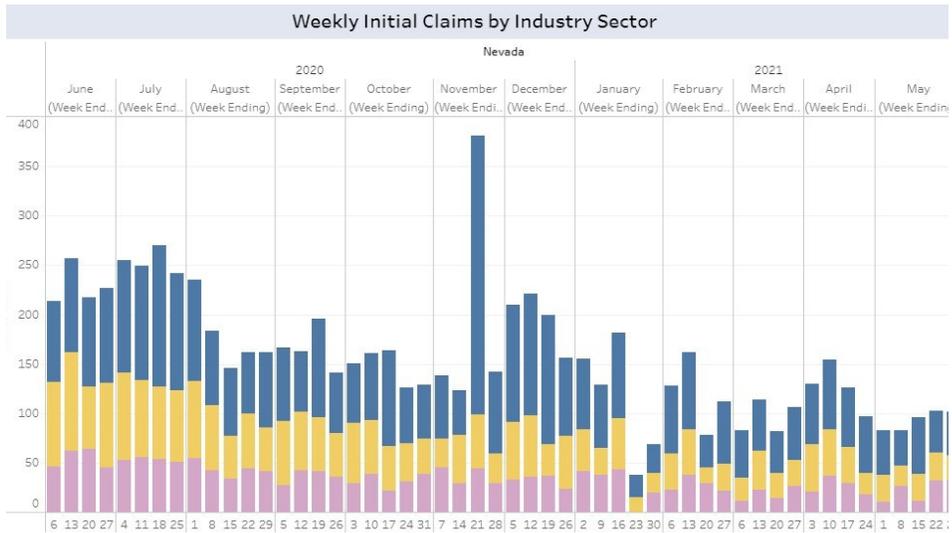




# AFWD-America's Job Center of California Statistics

**Unemployment Rates**  
 (As of: Aug. 2021)  
**California 7.5%**  
**Nevada County 5.5%**

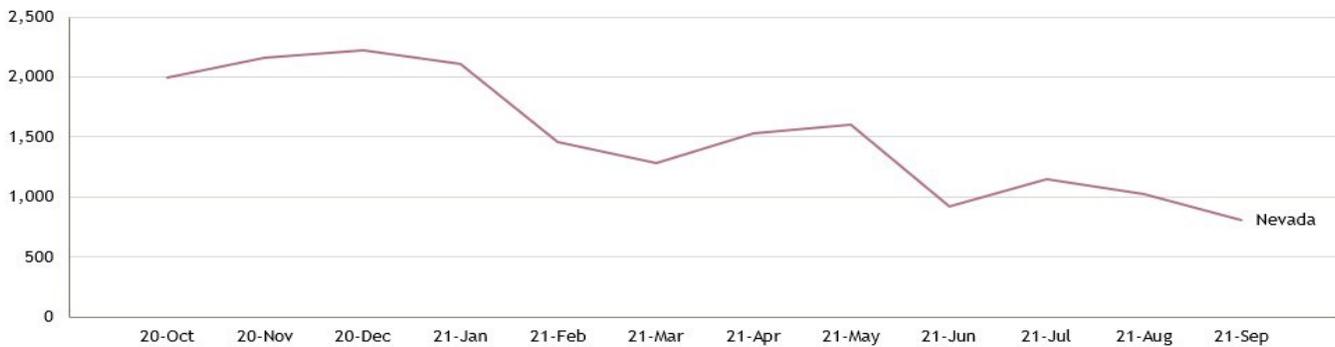
## Unemployment Information Oct. 2020 - Sept. 2021



**Top 3 Affected Industry**

- Food and Accommodation service
- Healthcare and social Assistance
- Retail Trade

### AFWD Region County UI Claims



**Nevada County - 1st Quarter**

**One-Stop Visitors: 813**  
**Businesses Served: 44**  
**Business Services: 206**

**AFWD**

**Clients Enrolled: 578**



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