

# ON A MISSION: AN UPDATE FOR YWCA SUPPORTERS



## Greetings and Gratitude

The events of the last few months have significantly impacted the fight for equity and justice in this country. We are reckoning with the world that we live in and its great disparities. How to move forward with anti-racist action. How to build the world we envision in our mission statement: one that truly ensures peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all.

As an agency that provides domestic violence services, we know that anti-racism work is in fact anti-violence work. The two are inseparable. To end gender-based and intimate-partner violence means dismantling the racist systems that continue to perpetuate harm to BIPOC-- including mass incarceration, policing, and school discipline disparities. It means providing access to healing and justice that doesn't cause further trauma.

It also means looking at how racism continues to manifest in our institutions and organizations, including here at the YWCA. We've been re-examining the ways that white supremacy culture shows up in our different programs, our norms, policies, and even our paperwork-- and actionable ways that we can dismantle this culture. If we're really going to end domestic and sexual violence, then this is part of the work.

You can read more about white supremacy culture, the ways it shows up in our daily lives, and its antidotes [here](#). And if you're looking for resources to educate yourself on systemic racism, you can check out [this extensive list put together by YWCA Chicago](#), which includes books, podcasts, articles, and more.

We'll continue to share ways to engage with racial justice work. Eliminating racism is going to take all of us, together.

With gratitude,

Cindy Weese  
Executive Director

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## The Meadowlark Construction Update

Construction of The Meadowlark, our new family housing center and domestic violence shelter, is moving right along! The exterior walls of the building are nearly complete. Soon, construction of the roof will begin.

Despite the many challenges of the last few months and the uncertainty of the future, we are glad to be able to proceed with construction of our new facility. The Meadowlark will meet a critical community need: same-day access to housing for homeless families and domestic violence survivors.

Learn more about the project at



## Shelter and Housing Program Updates

Our essential services, including operation of our current domestic violence shelter and our housing programs for homeless families, have continued uninterrupted during the Covid crisis. New policies and safety protocols were put in place. Program staff have remained dedicated and flexible, and we will continue to evolve to meet the changing needs of our participants and community.

Today, the domestic violence shelter is housing three adults. However, there has been significant fluctuation in the number of people accessing shelter over the last few months. This may be due to the additional challenges faced by many people in abusive relationships right now, including financial instability, reduced social support, and greater uncertainty about life circumstances.

In emergency housing there are currently has 14 families. This includes 15 children, ranging in age from newborn to 14 years old. There are five families on the waiting list.

Learn more about our [domestic violence programs](#) and [housing programs](#).

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## Welcome to Stacy Houge, our new Housing Manager!



Stacy is excited to join the YWCA as the Ada's Place Program Manager, working alongside Missoula families to find stable housing. Before joining YWCA Missoula, Stacy worked at Mountain Home Montana for eight years, serving young mothers and their children. In her spare time, Stacy enjoys reading, traveling (prior to COVID, and hopefully again in the not too distant future!), as well as spending time outdoors hiking, camping, kayaking and cross country skiing. She has three amazing kids who fill her world with adventure and joy,

## ... and Katie Galang, new Planet Kids Co-Manager!

Katie steps into the role of Planet Kids Co-Manager, after serving as a visit monitor in the program since last year. Katie has a Bachelor of Social Work degree from the University of Montana and has previously worked with families, children, and people experiencing homelessness at the Poverello Center, Family Promise, and Mountain Home Montana. Katie cares deeply about the service that Planet Kids supervised visitation program provides: a safe, positive space for families to engage and reconnect. In her free time, Katie enjoys running, hiking, playing music with friends, reading and yoga.



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## Secret Seconds Thrift Stores Update

As you may know, **Secret Seconds generates about 40% of the revenue for YWCA Missoula.** Every time you shop or donate items to the stores, you support our programs that help local families!

**Please continue to wear a mask in the stores.** As part of our COVID protocol, and per the health department's new measure, staff and customers are required to wear masks to protect everyone's health and safety.

New Store Hours: Monday- Saturday 10AM- 6PM, Sunday 10AM- 4PM.

Find us at 920 Kensington and 1136 W. Broadway.



## Donate Items to Families in Crisis

Our programs are in need of the following items, which are provided to families as they work to get back on their feet:

- Baby wipes
- Refrigerator
- Straight Talk phone cards

Our domestic violence shelter is in need of the following items:

- Mattress covers and comforters (twin, full and queen)
- Pillows
- Disinfecting wipes
- Disposable gloves

Donations can be dropped off at the YWCA office, Monday-Friday 10am- 4pm.

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## Become a Volunteer Advocate

We're looking for volunteers to answer our crisis line and provide support to domestic violence survivors at our walk-in counseling center. **Volunteer training will be held September 14-17th on Zoom.**

To sign up for training or learn more, [email Lacy](#) or call 543-6691.

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## Employment Opportunities

Join our team! We're currently hiring for the following positions:

- Secret Seconds store clerk (part time)
- Planet Kids visit monitor (part time)

Find the job descriptions and application instructions [here](#).

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YWCA Missoula | (406) 543-6691 | [www.ywcaofmissoula.org](http://www.ywcaofmissoula.org)

Crisis line: (406) 542-1944 or (800) 483-7858

STAY CONNECTED

