

ON A MISSION: AN UPDATE FOR YWCA SUPPORTERS



Greetings and Gratitude

2020 has been a year of immense challenge. It has also highlighted the vast disparities in our community and world, as we've seen the greatest burdens of the pandemic fall on the shoulders of women, people experiencing poverty, and BIPOC communities. And at the YWCA, the demand for our essential services has only increased this year.

The opening of The Meadowlark this spring will help address family homelessness in Missoula. But we can't ignore the critical needs of the community today. Faced with high unemployment rates and an inaccessible housing market, many families who had been near the edge are falling over.

Right now we have 14 homeless families in our emergency housing program and 10 more on the waiting list. That's why we are continuing to lease motel rooms this winter, to shelter families while they get back on their feet and find housing of their own-- and we need your support. [Please consider donating an amount that is meaningful to you, and know that every gift directly funds these rooms.](#)

While this year has brought hardship to so many, I am hopeful for the change that we can make in the future, together. Thank you for your continued support.

Wishing you health and peace this holiday season,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Weese".

Cindy Weese
Executive Director

Program Updates

The Meadowlark



We're looking forward to moving families into The Meadowlark this spring! This month there's been a lot of progress on the outside of the building and the construction site. Siding is now mostly complete; all that remains is the orange painting on the front of the building. Solar panels will soon be installed. And the parking lot is being paved.

Here is a view of the back of the building, from Second Street. You can see the ramp leading down to the secure, underground parking garage.

This design is intended to help protect the safety of residents of the domestic violence shelter.

Learn more about the project and see more construction progress at SeeThemHome.org.



Spring 2021 GUTS Virtual Groups: Register Now!

Registration is now open for GUTS virtual groups that will run January- April 2021. Last semester was a great success, and we're excited to offer this virtual option again for girls and gender-diverse youth in grades 4-12. Groups meet weekly on Zoom and include activities centered on discovering personal strengths, developing positive relationships and supporting the community. Free to participate. Follow @grittyguts on Instagram for GUTS! updates.

[Register for GUTS! spring groups](#)



Update from our Housing Programs

The housing programs have been very busy this month, and we have increased services to meet the needs of the community. This includes expanding the hours of our walk-in center, where people experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity can receive case management and necessities like diapers and clothing vouchers. We are also renting additional motel rooms this winter to provide emergency housing to homeless families.

There are ten families currently housed through the YWCA Rapid Rehousing program, which helps homeless families move quickly into permanent homes by assisting with rent, deposit, and other support. There are eight additional families in the program who are currently working with our case managers to search and apply for housing.

Get Involved

Help Provide Winter Shelter for Families

On Giving Tuesday together we raised \$7,000 to rent extra motel rooms this winter to provide emergency shelter to families. We're continuing to fundraise through the end of the year with a goal of raising \$15,000 and fill a gap that still exists. [GIVE TODAY](#) and help ensure that homeless families can have safety and shelter during the coldest months of the year.

Another way to support this effort is to [share our fundraising link](#) with your friends, family, or on social media!

Donate Holiday Gifts for Families

We are currently collecting items for gift baskets to provide to families in our programs. The following items are needed **by December 15th**:

- Throw blankets
- Family movies (DVDs)
- Board/card games
- Coffee mugs
- Boxes of mini indoor holiday lights
- Chocolates, cookies, snacks
- Gloves, hats, scarves, face masks

Gift Cards: Walmart, Target, Visa/ Mastercard

Items can be dropped off at the YWCA office, 1130 W. Broadway. Questions? [Email Eileen](#) or call 543-6691.



Donate Other Items on Our Wish List

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

- Toddler-size pants (2T-4T)
- Board games for children aged 8+
- Crockpots/ slow cookers
- Vacuum
- Pillows
- Magazines (any theme or date)

Support the YWCA When You Shop Amazon

Did you know that Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchases to YWCA Missoula when you shop through Amazon Smile? Just choose YWCA Missoula as your charitable organization. Bookmark this link so you can support us every time you shop: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/81-0245851>.

Become a Crisis Line Volunteer

We're looking for volunteers to answer our crisis line and provide support to domestic violence survivors. This is a rewarding volunteer experience that allows you to have a real and immediate impact, working directly with survivors. **Volunteer training will be held January 11th, 13th and 14th, 5-9 pm, on Zoom**

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

YWCA Missoula | (406) 543-6691 | www.ywcaofmissoula.org

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

STAY CONNECTED

