

## ON A MISSION: AN UPDATE FOR YWCA SUPPORTERS



### Greetings and Gratitude

This month as we honor Black history, I am thankful to recognize Dr. Dorothy Height (1912- 2010), a mighty civil rights activist and trailblazer who has had a lasting impact on our country and on the YWCA.

Dr. Height joined YWCA Harlem (New York), a Black YWCA chapter, in 1937, advocating for better working conditions for Black women. People are sometimes surprised to learn that many YWCA community chapters around the country were racially segregated until the 1960's; the first African American branch opened in 1889 in Dayton, Ohio.

In 1965, Dorothy Height became the first Director of Racial Justice for the national YWCA, where she worked tirelessly on the organization's integration policy. Her efforts led the YWCA to adopt the One Imperative: "To thrust our collective power toward the elimination of racism, wherever it exists and by any means necessary."

Dorothy Height was a true pioneer for the intersection of race and gender activism. Her work and vision is reflected in the YWCA mission statement today and guides the work of all our programs.

Let's honor Dr. Height's legacy this month-- and every month-- in our service to women, survivors, and families, and in our commitment to fight collectively for social justice. Our work to eliminate racism and empower women must continue.

Cindy Weese  
Executive Director

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### What's New

Watch our Annual Meeting



Did you miss our annual meeting earlier this month? No problem! [You can watch a recording of the event here](#) and learn more about what's slated for the YWCA in the year ahead.

Thank you to our incredible guest speaker, Lenny Peppers. And thank you to everyone for joining us (virtually) and supporting the YWCA as we embark on our second century of service.

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## Who We Are



### Tracy Mullennix, Office Administrator

We're pleased to introduce Tracy Mullennix, who you may meet at our front desk or speak to when you call the office. Tracy is a guest service specialist with a genuine interest in and compassion for people of all walks of life. She loves the mission of the YWCA and is looking forward to serving the community in The Meadowlark. Before joining our team, Tracy worked for a number of Missoula agencies, including Parks & Rec, the YMCA, Missoula County Attorney's office, and Western Montana Fair. Tracy is a proud mom of two 20-something daughters, a puppy trainer, church volunteer, and avid camper. Welcome, Tracy!

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## Program Updates

### The Meadowlark



Construction continues at The Meadowlark (check out those newly installed solar panels!), over on Third Street. We expect construction to be completed in April, and to move the first families into the building in May.

In the coming months we will be sharing opportunities to volunteer or donate items- stay tuned! **Due to limited storage space, and in preparation for our move, we are not able to accept in-kind donations for The Meadowlark at this time.**

Here you can see progress being made on the sleeping rooms. Each family unit or individual domestic violence survivor will have their own private sleeping room and bathroom, which will afford them privacy and dignity during their stay.



We are excited to expand our youth programs in order to better support children and families at The Meadowlark, where we will serve twice the number of families than we do currently. Kids and teens staying at The Meadowlark will be able to participate in enriching afterschool and summer programs, outdoor recreation, and therapeutic activities.

At The Meadowlark we will also continue to run our GUTS! leadership and empowerment programs, open to all girls and gender-diverse youth in the community. We are currently hiring a GUTS! Program Coordinator, as our GUTS! Manager, Tess, will be moving into a new position to oversee all our youth services. Congrats, Tess!

[Find the GUTS! Coordinator job description and application instructions here](#)

## Sexual Assault Support Group

Beginning in March (exact dates still TBD), we will hold a 10-week support group for survivors of sexual violence. A support group can provide survivors with a safe environment to share strengths and struggles, and to work toward healing and growth. The group is open to all genders and offered free of charge.

To learn more or register, [email Carol](#) or call 406-543-6691.

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## Get Involved

### Donate 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:

- Crock pots/ slow cookers
- Alarm clocks
- Lysol
- Anti-bacterial wipes
- Diapers (size 4-6)
- Blankets and bed sheets
- Pillows

[Find the full wish list here](#)

### Submit Artwork for The Meadowlark

Call to artists! We are looking for original art pieces– including 2D, 3D, mural, multi- and mixed-media forms of art– to be considered for installation throughout The Meadowlark.

The YWCA will provide \$500 compensation per piece that is accepted. We are especially seeking representation from Indigenous artists, and aim to have at least half the artwork displayed at The Meadowlark from Indigenous artists.

[Learn more and submit artwork here](#)

### Become a Cooking Angel

Do you like to cook and have the ability to prepare a group meal once a month? Volunteer 'cooking angels' are needed to make dinner for residents staying at our domestic violence shelter. Meals can be prepared in your own kitchen and delivered to the YWCA main office.

To learn more or sign up, [email Lacy](#) or call 406-543-6691.

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

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

STAY CONNECTED



