

ON A MISSION: AN UPDATE FOR YWCA SUPPORTERS



Greetings and Gratitude

As we start a new year, I find myself reflecting on 2021's challenges and triumphs. The YWCA built our brand-new facility, The Meadowlark, with twice as much space for unsheltered families and survivors of domestic violence. Thanks to extraordinary community support, we opened just as Missoula's unprecedented housing crisis was forcing more and more local families into impossible situations. Although we can and are serving twice as many people in the new facility, there are still nights when we fear that there may not be enough room for all the newly unsheltered families and domestic violence survivors who need a safe, warm place to stay.

YWCA Missoula is dedicated to helping all these individuals and families. Whatever we face in this uncertain new year, I am comforted knowing our dedicated staff and volunteers stand ready to confront whatever challenges arise, and generous community members stand beside us with strength and support. Together we will successfully rise to the challenges of 2022.

Peace be with you in this new year,

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

Cindy Weese
Executive Director

What's New

Cold Nights Warm Shelter raises over \$25,000 for unsheltered families



Thanks to the generosity of our community, our Cold Nights, Warm Shelter fundraiser collected \$28,385! We are so grateful to see the spirit of giving alive. If you would still like to contribute, It's not too late to help support YWCA Missoula and [make sure no child has to sleep in a car this winter.](#)

Tip of the Spear Podcast address the realities of human trafficking.

YWCA Missoula Pathways Program
Manager Lyndayle Mattis recently appeared

on Missoula County's [Tip of the Spear Podcast](#) to talk about the realities of human trafficking. Domestic and sexual violence and human trafficking can happen to anyone, with lasting impacts on families and communities. [YWCA Missoula's Pathways Program](#) is here to help. We offer survivors of all genders the safety and support to recover from trauma, while empowering them to advance their life goals and achieve lasting independence.



Volunteer with GUTS!

The GUTS! program is recruiting volunteers to mentor girls and gender-diverse youth in Missoula schools. Volunteers are trained in the GUTS! leadership curriculum and implement interactive and fun activities that provide kids a safe place to explore their personal strengths, tackle challenges, work on community projects, have fun, and be themselves. Sign up ends January 17. Fill out a [volunteer application](#) or call Jess at 406-543-6691 for more information.

Program Updates

Families Receive Gifts for the Holidays



Thanks to the generosity of local businesses, neighbors and diverse members of our community, the families in our housing programs and domestic violence shelter received gift baskets and treats for the holidays. We received many donations, including beautiful knit hats and homemade baked goods. Thank you to all who donated gifts, supplies, time and lots of heat to help make the holidays special for so many families and children in our programs.

Who We Are

Welcome (Back) to Our New Staff!

YWCA Missoula is happy to have Melissa Richards rejoin our team as Housing Program Director. She previously worked for YWCA Missoula for over 12 years, working as Housing Program Manager. Melissa, a graduate of the University of Montana's Social Work Department, is also an avid mushroom hunter

and butterfly enthusiast.

Missoula's current unprecedented housing crisis has pushed local families to their breaking point. Melissa and our staff works to make sure families in crisis have a warm place to stay.



Secret Seconds News & Updates

Donate Housewares to Secret Seconds

Do you have household items you're looking to pass along? Both stores are currently looking for gently used housewares.

As always, all purchases will go directly to YWCA Missoula programs that help local families in crisis. Shopping at and donating to [Secret Seconds](#) is a great way to support our mission and programs!

Find us at 920 Kensington and 1136 W. Broadway.
Open Tuesday thru Saturday, 10 AM - 6 PM.



Get Involved

Donate Items to Support Families in Crisis

Sometimes our participants leave with only the clothing on their backs. Your donations provide basic necessities to help families through everyday challenges.

Domestic Violence Shelter:

- Winter hats for adults
- Gloves and mittens
- Large bath towels
- Diapers (size 5, 6, 7)
- Baby monitors
- Deodorant
- Hair ties
- Bike locks

Housing Program:

- Baby wipes
- Toiletry items (shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, toilet paper.)
- Cleaning supplies
- Diapers (all sizes)

Planet Kids:

- Upholstery cleaner
- Board games for teens/older kids
- Arts and crafts supplies

Youth Services:

- New outdoor sport equipment
- New or unused outdoor clothing and shoes



[View our complete wish list here!](#)

Upcoming Events

YWConnect Tours

Learn about how the YWCA's programs benefit u families, domestic violence survivors and youth. Join us for an informational tour! **Light lunch provided.** Noon- 1 PM.

Tuesday, January 11th

Tuesday, February 8th

Tuesday, March 8th

[RSVP here](#). Contact [Diane](#) with any questions.

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

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

STAY CONNECTED

