

## ON A MISSION: AN UPDATE FOR YWCA SUPPORTERS



### Greetings and Gratitude

Last month's Supreme Court overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, while anticipated, was still devastating.

As a domestic and sexual violence services provider, we are concerned that the SCOTUS decision will be particularly harmful to the people we serve. Abusive partners use sexual violence and coercion as a tool of power and control, and this can include denying a victim access to birth control. Abortion restrictions may result in more women being unable to terminate unwanted pregnancies, potentially keeping them and their children in contact with violent partners. While intimate partner violence affects everyone, it occurs at disparate rates and with disproportionate impacts for women of color.

We also know that lack of access to abortion has long-term negative consequences for women and families, impacting everything from educational achievement to financial security. Banning or restricting abortion care creates an additional barrier to stability that will fall unfairly to low-income people and those living in poverty.

Abortion is still legal in Montana, although access to care is not equitable, and reproductive rights may be threatened in the next election. Join us in supporting the Women's Health Protection Act, which protects the right to abortion, free from burdensome and often medically unnecessary restrictions. You can learn more and send a message to your Senators [here](#).

The YWCA has supported reproductive choice for over 50 years. This stance is rooted in our organization's mission of empowering women and eliminating racism, and the firm belief that all people should have the right to make choices regarding their bodies, their health, and their future. Let's continue to fight for this.

Cindy Weese  
Executive Director

### What's New

#### Secret Seconds Wins Best Thrift Store!

Thank you to everyone who voted Secret Seconds as #1 Thrift Store for the 2022 Best of Missoula Awards! Congrats to our dedicated and hard-working store staff, and thanks to our loyal shoppers and donors!

Follow Secret Seconds on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) to see some of the special items available.

Find the stores at 920 Kensington and 1136 W. Broadway.  
Open Tuesday- Saturday, 12-6 PM.



## Missoula PaddleHeads Help 'Strike Out Domestic Violence'

This season, the [Missoula PaddleHeads](#) baseball team will donate \$50 to YWCA Missoula every time a PaddleHeads pitcher gets a strikeout-- for a total of up to \$25,000! All funds will support our domestic and sexual violence programs. Huge thanks for the generous community support!

## Program Updates

### GUTS! Summer Outdoor Adventures

Our GUTS! summer programs are in full swing! Last week, campers harvested and enjoyed veggies at Garden City Harvest, built "compost castles" (compost bins, but more majestic!), rock climbed, and explored some local parks and trails. Along the way, they also strengthened relationships with their peers, the community, and themselves. And yes, they had some fun, too!

[Learn more about GUTS! and other YWCA Youth Services.](#)



### Dental Services Offered to Residents at The Meadowlark

Thanks to a partnership with dental hygienist, Christel Riitano, residents staying in the domestic violence shelter or the Family Housing Center are now able to receive dental services, including routine cleanings, x-rays, and oral assessments, right on site at The Meadowlark. Christel's services are covered 100% through Medicaid, or provided at no cost to residents without insurance. "Oral health is an important part of an individual's overall health, and is easily overlooked," says Christel. "I'm trying to bring awareness and care to those who have limited ability to see a dentist regularly."

## Who We Are



### Ian Arruda, Racial Equity and Justice Specialist

Welcome to Ian Arruda, the new Racial Equity and Justice Specialist for YWCA Missoula and [EmpowerMT](#)! In this joint position, Ian supports both organizations' anti-racism initiatives and programming. Ian is studying Business Management and Entrepreneurship at the University of Montana; he is the president of the Black Student Union and is the former vice president of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) of the Interfraternity Council at UM. Originally from Colorado Springs, Ian served in the U.S. Air Force before moving to Montana. He is also the father of a 12-year-old son. Ian is looking forward to building new DEI strategies for YWCA programs and believes that change is all about action and understanding.

## Get Involved

### Tour The Meadowlark

Join us for an informational tour and learn about how the YWCA's programs benefit families, youth, and domestic violence survivors. **Light lunch provided upon request**

#### UPCOMING DATES:

Tuesday, August 9th, 12:30-1:30 p.m.

Tuesday, September 13th, 12:30-1:30 p.m.

Limited space. Please [RSVP here](#) to confirm availability and request lunch

Questions? [Contact Diane](#).

## Donate Items on Our Wish List

Your donations of basic necessities can help families through everyday challenges. *We are currently only accepting new/ unused items that are on our wish list.* We accept donations Monday- Friday, 9am- 5pm.

- [Domestic Violence Shelter needs](#)
- [Family Housing Center needs](#)
- [Planet Kids needs](#)
- [Youth Services needs](#)

## Employment Opportunities

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

- Executive Director (full time)- [learn more](#)
- Volunteer Coordinator (full time)
- Planet Kids Visit Monitor (part time)
- Support Specialist (full time)
- Women's Talking Circle Group Facilitator (3-5 hrs/week)
- Secret Seconds store clerks (part time/ full time)
- Secret Seconds receiving clerks (part time/ full time)
- Family Housing Center Lead Overnight Advocate (full time)

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

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

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

STAY CONNECTED

