

## ON A MISSION: AN UPDATE FOR YWCA SUPPORTERS



### Greetings and Gratitude

This summer marks our first complete fiscal year in our new home, The Meadowlark. When we dreamed up this building years ago, we knew there was a rising need for our services in the community. But the ongoing effects from the pandemic and the housing crisis means that the need has been even higher than we anticipated.

Since opening our doors, we've provided 7,381 nights of safe, dignified shelter to 179 individuals in the domestic violence shelter. This represents a **67% increase in the nights of shelter provided** underscoring how much longer survivors need to stay in shelter before they can achieve safe housing of their own.

And last year, 90 unhoused families took shelter in the Family Housing Center, which we operate in partnership with Missoula Interfaith Collaborative's Family Promise program. In addition, 142 families utilized walk-in supportive services to get help searching for housing, preventing eviction, or basic needs like gas cards and baby diapers.

While it's clear that our community needs to invest in additional crisis services and housing programs, I'm incredibly grateful that at the YWCA Meadowlark we've been providing 24/7 services for more than a year. Thank you to everyone for their continued support, and for sharing our vision for building a safer, stronger community for all.

Cindy Weese  
Executive Director

### What's New



#### Run or Walk to Support YWCA at Fierce Fab 5K

Run Wild Missoula is donating a portion of race proceeds from the Fierce Fab 5K (formerly Diva Day) to YWCA's domestic and sexual violence program. This is a fun way to support our services! The race will be held on September 25th.

[Learn more and register here.](#)

### Program Updates

#### Support Group for Sexual Assault Survivors

This fall, in addition to our [weekly open support groups](#) for individuals who have experienced all forms of

abuse or interpersonal violence, the YWCA will offer a 10-week, closed support group for people of all genders who are survivors of sexual assault. A support group can offer a safe environment to share strengths and struggles and work toward healing and growth.

The group is scheduled to start in September. It is free to participate. Interested participants should [email Carol](#) or call (406) 543-6691 to sign up or learn more.



## GUTS! is Recruiting Fall Volunteers

The GUTS! program is looking for volunteer mentors to facilitate weekly groups for girls and gender-diverse youth in the community. Volunteers lead activities to help build self-esteem, explore important social issues, and have fun!

GUTS! is powered by its incredible volunteers, and the program couldn't run without them! Volunteer training begins in early September.

[Learn more here.](#)

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## Who We Are



### Kim Storrent, Administrative Assistant

Kim Storrent juggles many tasks as YWCA Missoula's Administrative Assistant, and she's probably one of the first people you'll meet at The Meadowlark. Kim comes to the YWCA with front desk and admin experience from another non-profit. She has been a single mom for over 20 years in Missoula and she's invested in creating a safer community for her family and others. In her free time, Kim enjoys hiking, biking and camping.

### Monica Dierken, Planet Kids Visit Monitor

Monica Dierken has been with the [Planet Kids](#) supervised visitation program for two years. As a visit monitor, she helps keep domestic violence survivors and their children safe. Monica has a great ability to connect with the children at Planet Kids and help them all feel comfortable coming through our doors. Thank you for your service and dedication, Monica!



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

Tuesday, October 11th, 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](#)
- [Youth Services needs](#)

## Employment Opportunities

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

- Family Housing Center weekend/ evening advocate (full time)
- Planet Kids Visit Monitor (part time)
- Secret Seconds store clerks (part time/ full time)
- Secret Seconds receiving clerks (part time/ 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

