

ON A MISSION: AN UPDATE FOR YWCA SUPPORTERS



Greetings and Gratitude

The insurrection at the Capitol last week was a glaring example of white supremacy and our country's legacy of oppression. We saw it in the hateful rhetoric that incited the attack, in the entitlement and violence exhibited by the riotous mob, and in the largely passive and enabling police response.

It was also a powerful reminder of the continued need for our work at the YWCA-- to eliminate racism, promote gender equality, and end domestic and sexual violence-- especially as we consider the ways in which all forms of violence and oppression are interconnected. Behavior that is used to gain power and control over others is what drives the cycle of violence, both on the interpersonal level and at the systemic level. In order to interrupt these cycles, we must uplift voices of women, BIPOC communities and all marginalized people, and fight against abuses of power in its many forms.

We begin this year focused on building a community where *everyone* can live safely, free from violence and discrimination. It's our mission and responsibility. Join us, and let's continue this work together.

Cindy Weese
Executive Director

What's New

Join Us (Virtually) for the Annual Meeting

Save the date! We will be holding our annual meeting online on **Friday, February 5th, 12-12:30 PM**. Everyone is invited to attend. Invitation and registration info coming soon-- stay tuned!

Emergency Winter Housing Fundraising Goal Reached!

Thank you to everyone who donated on Giving Tuesday through the end of the year, and helped raise funds so that families experiencing homelessness won't have to sleep outside or in their cars during the coldest months. We received gifts from 126 donors and raised over \$19,000. These funds will be used to rent extra emergency motel rooms for families this winter, before we move into The Meadowlark in the spring. Lots of gratitude to this community, who has shown incredible generosity this year!

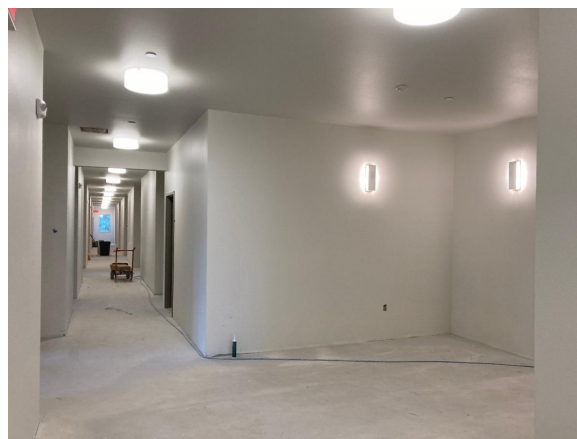
Program Updates

The Meadowlark

Construction of The Meadowlark is estimated to be complete in early April. The resident rooms on the third floor of the domestic violence shelter wing



have doors up (pictured here). Lights inside of the rooms have been installed, and the private bathrooms are being tiled and finished up.



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](#)



GUTS! Virtual Groups Begin Next Week

There are still a few spots left in GUTS! virtual groups, which run January 18th- April 23rd. Groups meet weekly on Zoom and include activities centered on discovering personal strengths, developing positive relationships and supporting the community. Free to participate.

[Register now!](#)



Families Celebrate Christmas at Shelter



Families at the domestic violence shelter had a festive and cozy holiday, thanks to the many donors and community groups who donated presents for children, treats, and gift basket items. Being able to celebrate holidays and carry out traditions can help maintain a sense of normalcy for children and families during times of crisis.

Currently there are 10 residents staying in shelter, including 3 children.

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:

- (2) sets of bunk beds with mattresses
- New comforters (twin and full size)
- Diapers (size 4-6) and wipes
- Toddler-size pants (2T-4T)
- Board games for children aged 8+

[Find the full wish list here](#)

Employment Opportunities

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

- Emergency Housing Coordinator (full time)
- Office Administrator (full time)
- Pathways Advocate (part time, evenings/weekends)
- Children's Program Coordinator (part time)
- Secret Seconds Store Clerk (part time)

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

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

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

STAY CONNECTED

