

## ON A MISSION: AN UPDATE FOR YWCA SUPPORTERS



### Greetings and Gratitude

In just a few weeks we will be moving out of our office on West Broadway, which has been home to YWCA Missoula for the last 46 years. It's an old, odd building, but it contains a rich history. For nearly 30 years it has been my workplace and ground zero for a team of staff and volunteers dedicated to providing compassionate assistance. It's a place where meals have been shared, community built, ideas born, and lives changed. As my colleagues and I pack boxes and clean out the closets in preparation for our move to The Meadowlark, I'm filled with nostalgia and pride for all the work we've done here, together.

Each year, around 3,000 people seek services from YWCA Missoula. The situations that people face when they come to us are incredibly varied: from the single dad who is being evicted because he can't afford his climbing rent, to the caller on the crisis line concerned about her neighbor who is being abused, to the teen girl living with her mom at our domestic violence shelter before joining a GUTS! summer trip where she builds confidence and leadership skills. But the common thread in the stories I have witnessed over the years is the unconditional support that people feel when they walk through our doors. That even in times that seem hopeless-- especially during those times-- the YWCA is here to listen without judgement, providing safety and stability.

We have outgrown this building on West Broadway but our work continues, and we are prepared to begin our second century of service to Missoula in our new home on 3rd Street. By the time we send out our next newsletter, we'll be in The Meadowlark!

Cindy Weese  
Executive Director

### Program Updates

#### The Meadowlark



It's a sprint to the finish at The Meadowlark! All of the interior finishes, flooring and cabinetry installation is happening now. The outdoor playground space is under construction, too, and the concrete is being poured for the patios and the walking paths.

YWCA offices and programs will move into The Meadowlark in mid-April, and the first families will move into the building in May. **We will be live streaming a ribbon cutting ceremony on May 6th. Stay tuned for more details!**

**GUTS! Summer Registration is Open!**



GUTS! is excited to offer three week-long outdoor day camps for Summer 2021. Qualified instructors help girls and gender-diverse youth increase their self-confidence, hone individual strengths and build community using the GUTS! evidence-based curriculum. Activities will include biking, day-hikes, swimming, and nature-based skills.

Camps are being offered for incoming 5th-8th graders. Scholarships are available.

[Learn more and sign up here.](#)

## Pathways Serves Increased Number of Survivors

This month the Pathways domestic violence program saw an increased need for services, including significantly more calls to the crisis line. Currently there are 8 adults and 6 children, ranging in age from 3 to 12, staying at the domestic violence shelter. Thank you to our Pathways staff for their hard work during this busy month!

Once we relocate to The Meadowlark, Pathways will be able to serve twice as many survivors and their children in the domestic violence shelter and provide more comprehensive support.

[Learn more about the Pathways program here.](#)

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## Who We Are



**Kimberli Stevens-Falconer, Family Housing Center Shelter Coordinator**

Kim began her work at YWCA Missoula as an advocate for survivors with the Pathways program, and she is excited for her new role at The Meadowlark's family housing center. Kim is passionate about the work being done at YWCA Missoula to end homelessness in our community and provide a safe place to women and families who have no other place to turn for help. In her free time, Kim enjoys scrapbooking and spending time with her twin daughters and three dogs.



**Jess Monis, GUTS! Program Coordinator**

Jess joins the YWCA staff after being a volunteer with the GUTS! program for three years. Along with her B.S. in Parks, Tourism, and Recreation Management from UM, she has a decade of experience running youth development programs, from coaching soccer to designing wellness workshops for teens. As a yoga practitioner, Jess values the skill of self-exploration and is passionate about fostering empowerment in youth. And being Mexican-American, she is delighted to work for an organization that is focused on anti-racism work. In her free time she enjoys exploring different movement practices and sports, but equally indulges in naps.

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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:

- Toilet paper
- Alarm clocks
- Diapers (size 4-6)
- Full size shampoo & conditioner
- Phone cards (Straight Talk)
- Grocery gift cards

[Find the full wish list here](#)

## Employment Opportunities

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

- Overnight Family Housing Center advocates (part time and full time)
- Overnight Pathways shelter advocates (part time and full time)
- Youth advocates (part time)
- Secret Seconds store clerk (part time)

[See job descriptions and application instructions](#) (scroll down to 'Employment' section on page)



## MISSOULAGIVES

### Join Us for Missoula Gives: May 6-7

YWCA Missoula is excited to participate in [Missoula Gives](#), an annual community day of giving. Missoula Gives is a 26-hour online giving challenge to celebrate the generosity of our great community, so **please join this movement by contributing on May 6-7!**

This year we will be raising funds for our new youth services program at The Meadowlark. We know that growing up in a home filled with the sights and sounds of domestic violence, or experiencing the stress of homelessness or food insecurity, can have a profound impact on children. One critical way that we can help is by offering enriching, trauma-informed summer programs— so that kids can just be kids. **Our goal is to raise \$15,000 to fund enriching summer activities for children, like bike and swim lessons, rafting, and outdoor weekend activities.**

[Check out our page and donate May 6-7!](#)

## Advocate for Survivors

Are you looking for a rewarding and impactful volunteer experience that will allow you to work directly with survivors of domestic and sexual violence? Our professional-caliber training will be held June 14th-26th (40 hours total), and prepare you to volunteer at the shelter, answer calls on the crisis line, or provide peer counseling at the walk-in center.

[Learn more about advocate training.](#)

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

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

STAY CONNECTED

