

ON A MISSION: AN UPDATE FOR YWCA SUPPORTERS



Greetings and Gratitude

We truly could not do the work we do here at YWCA Missoula without the support of our volunteers. Their dedication allows us to put our mission of eliminating racism and empowering women into action, and some of our services simply would not be available without their assistance. Last year— throughout the pandemic— **130 volunteers** gave their time and energy to serving the women, children, and families in our programs.

Our move to The Meadowlark and expansion of our services means that we need help from volunteers more than ever. Right now, we are recruiting new volunteers for multiple positions—from greeting families at our front desk, to leading after-school groups for girls and gender-diverse youth, to preparing meals for survivors and their children who attend support groups. You can learn more about current volunteer opportunities and how to get involved [here](#).

Thank you to all our volunteers, including those who have been with us for years and those who are just getting started. You are the heart of our organization, and we celebrate you!

With gratitude,

Cindy Weese
Executive Director

What's New

Secret Seconds Wins #1 Best Thrift Store

Thank you for voting [Secret Seconds](#) Best Thrift Store in Missoula for yet another year in a row! We appreciate the recognition and the unwavering support from this community. Kudos to our incredibly hardworking store staff and to everyone who donates their items to Secret Seconds. We couldn't run our business without you.

Did you know that Secret Seconds generates nearly 40% of the funding for YWCA Missoula? The stores subsidize every single one of our programs. Shopping and donating items is a great way to support the YWCA!



Save the Date: Virtual Women's Justice Benefit, Tuesday, October 26

In order to protect the health and wellbeing of our supporters, participants and community, we have decided to hold our annual fundraising luncheon virtually again this year. The event will premiere online, Tuesday, October 26th, at noon. Stay tuned for more details!

Program Updates

GUTS! Summer Programs

This week, GUTS wrapped up their summer outdoor programs. Some highlights included kayaking the river, completing an orienteering course with Grizzly Orienteering, and biking to Milltown State Park.

Thanks to our outstanding Americorps volunteers, Violet and Eleanor, for their energy and enthusiasm leading groups this summer! GUTS served 30 youth, helping them discover their strengths and connect with the community.



Family Housing Center



In the last month, six families from YWCA programs moved into permanent housing! This is a huge success, especially given the current housing market in Missoula, which is inaccessible to many lower income families.

These families advocated for themselves and persevered through many challenges. They were also able to use funds from our Rapid Rehousing Program, which offers funding for security deposits and rental assistance for up to one year. YWCA case managers and volunteers from MIC's Housing Advocate Network worked with families to locate available rentals, communicate with landlords, and

address housing barriers.

[Learn more about our Housing Programs](#)

Fall Support Groups

The YWCA offers weekly support groups at The Meadowlark for women and gender-diverse individuals who have experienced all forms of abuse, control, manipulation or interpersonal violence. In September, groups will begin meeting on Tuesdays at 6:15 p.m., with support groups for children offered at the same time. Free dinner will be provided at 5:30 p.m.

Questions? [Email Carol](#) or call 543-6691.

Who We Are: Volunteer Spotlight



“As humans, we have a responsibility to take care of one another,” Inge says. “The role of the YWCA is to be there for people who don’t have anyone else to help them, so they know that someone cares.”

Inge Goetz-Cordova is a YWCA donor and a volunteer with the Pathways domestic violence program, where she takes a weekly shift answering the crisis line (plus extra shifts, when needed!). As a retired ER nurse, she was drawn to this work because of her experience helping people in trauma and crisis. The mission of the YWCA resonates for Inge, who is committed to equity and believes that everyone deserves safety and to be treated with respect.

Thank you for supporting survivors, Inge! We appreciate your service.

Get Involved

Cook Tuesday Night Support Group Meals

Do you have a small group of friends or colleagues that want to volunteer together? We are looking for volunteers to prepare meals for our Tuesday night support groups. Meals typically need to feed around 10 people and can be cooked in the kitchen at The Meadowlark or dropped off fully prepared. To learn more or sign up, [email Lacy](#) or call 543-6691.

Become a GUTS! Mentor

The GUTS! Program is recruiting volunteers who are interested in facilitating weekly groups and providing mentorship to girls and gender-diverse youth ages 9-13 in Missoula schools. Volunteers are trained in the GUTS! leadership curriculum and implement activities that provide youth an opportunity to explore their personal strengths, tackle common challenges, work on community projects, have fun, and be themselves! Application deadline is Sunday, September 5th. [Apply online here.](#)

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 Tuesday through Friday from 10 am until 2 pm or by special arrangement.

[View our program wish lists here](#)

Give to the YWCA with Amazon Smile

Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchases to YWCA Missoula when you shop through Amazon Smile! Just choose YWCA Missoula as your charitable organization. Bookmark this link so you can support us every time you shop: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/81-0245851>.



Run or Walk to Support the YWCA at Diva Day 5K

Run Wild Missoula is donating 20% of race proceeds from their annual Diva Day 5K run/walk event to YWCA Missoula's Pathways Program!

Join us for Diva Day on September 26th. Click [here](#) to sign up for this fun event!

Employment Opportunities

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

- Youth Services Manager (full time)
- Youth Advocates (part time)
- Family Housing Center Advocate (weekends, part time)
- Family Housing Center Support Specialist (full time)
- Abuse in Later Life Advocate (full time)
- Secret Seconds store clerk (part time)

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

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

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

STAY CONNECTED

