

## ON A MISSION: AN UPDATE FOR YWCA SUPPORTERS



### Greetings and Gratitude

As we leave autumn behind us, and prepare for another of Montana's winters, I find myself looking forward to the coziness of the holidays and spending time with my loved ones. I'm also thinking of the unhoused families in our community, however, who are sleeping in their cars or camping before they come to the YWCA for help.

This year, we have been feeling the impact of Missoula's continued unprecedented housing crisis. Our new facility, The Meadowlark, with twice as much space for homeless families and domestic violence survivors as our previous location, has been packed since we opened it earlier this year. Because it is difficult to find alternative housing, families are staying longer in our shelters, while newly homeless families are dependent on us having room immediately available for them. We believe no one should have to sleep out in the cold, and so the YWCA is working with community partners to provide deposit and rental assistance, as well as landlord incentives designed to rapidly move families out of shelter and into homes of their own.

During this season of giving, [we ask you to support Missoula families](#), either through a financial contribution or by donating an item on our wish list. When we help our most vulnerable neighbors, we strengthen the entire community.

Wishing you peace and happiness this season,

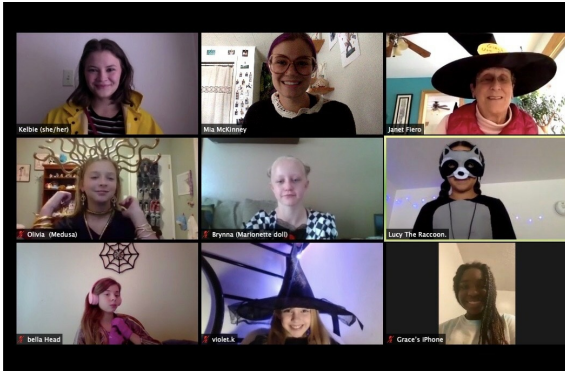
Cindy Weese  
Executive Director

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### Get Involved

One struggle faced by survivors of domestic violence and unhoused families is the thought of not being able to take care of their pets while seeking shelter. YWCA Missoula is teaming up with Western Montana

Humane Society to host a **Pet Advocate training on November 20<sup>th</sup>** from 2-4:30 PM! The Humane Society of Western Montana supports this program by providing veterinary care, vaccinations, and behavior advice as needed. Call Alena at 406-543-6691 or [submit a YWCA volunteer form](#).



Do you have what it takes to prepare the next generation of girls and gender-diverse youth for the world around them? **GUTS! is recruiting volunteers for Spring 2022.** GUTS! encourages young people to explore personal values and discover their strengths through wilderness adventures in the summer, as well as through after-school groups and

service projects during the academic year. [Email Alena](#) for more information or submit a YWCA [volunteer form](#).

Feel that bite in the air? Gear up for winter with a sweater from Secret Seconds.

Not only will you be keeping yourself warm, **proceeds from all purchases at Secret Seconds go directly to YWCA Missoula programs** that help local families in crisis. Shopping at [Secret Seconds](#) is an easy way to support our mission and programs.



Find us at 920 Kensington and 1136 W. Broadway.  
Open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 AM—6PM.

**YWCA Talking Circle**, a group led by Native women for Native and Non-Native women, meets virtually on Tuesdays from 6:15-7:45 PM to discuss Native Women's Issues. [Contact Victoria](#) for more information and to get a link to the weekly meeting.



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### Did you know you can support the YWCA through your IRA?

You can give any amount (up to a maximum of \$100,000) per year from your IRA directly to a qualified charity such as [YWCA Missoula](#) without having to pay income taxes on the money. Gifts of any value

\$100,000 or less are eligible for this benefit and you can feel good knowing that you are making a difference in your community.

Since the gift doesn't count as income, it can reduce your annual income level, which may help lower your Medicare premiums and decrease the amount of Social Security that is subjected to tax.



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## What's New

### YWCA Missoula Receives a Youth Services Grant from the Gallagher Foundation



We are honored to receive a \$10,000 grant from the Bill & Rosemary Gallagher Foundation to support our Youth Services Program. With more than 60 youth residing in The Meadowlark on any given day, this critical funding helps us mitigate the negative long-term impacts of trauma and break generational cycles of poverty and racism. [Learn more about our Youth Services.](#)

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## Upcoming Events

### Tour the Meadowlark

What does a day at the new Meadowlark facility look like? Learn about how the YWCA's programs benefit homeless families, domestic violence survivors, and Montana's youth. Join us for an informational tour!

**Tuesday, December 14 at 12:30 PM.**

Tuesday, January 11 at 12:30 PM.

[RSVP here](#)



### Giving Tuesday: November 30th

YWCA Missoula will be participating in **Giving Tuesday**, a global movement that celebrates giving back on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving and Black Friday. Together we'll be working to raise funds to provide emergency shelter for homeless families in Missoula this winter.

Stay tuned for more information on getting involved on Giving Tuesday!

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

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

STAY CONNECTED

