

ON A MISSION: AN UPDATE FOR YWCA SUPPORTERS



Greetings and Gratitude

One of the most common questions asked of domestic violence survivors is: *why did you stay?* It's a question asked by law enforcement, judges, family and friends. Asking why they stay, however, creates an assumption that victims must take responsibility for enduring abuse. It also detracts from holding perpetrators accountable for their actions.

The truth is, domestic violence is a pervasive issue that impacts the lives of countless families, across all walks of life. And as I've seen from the women and children I've met at the YWCA over the past 29 years, survivors possess an abundance of strength.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and we invite you to join us in commemoration: believe survivors, hold perpetrators accountable, and celebrate healthy relationships. We will be sharing information and action items on social media, and I encourage you to connect with us.

October 18 also marks the start of the [Week Without Violence](#), part of a global movement with YWCAs across the country and around the world to end violence against women and girls. Together, we will stand with survivors and work to end domestic violence.

Cindy Weese
Executive Director

What's New

Virtual Women's Justice Benefit Lunch-in

Watch our annual fundraiser, the virtual Women's Justice Benefit Lunch-in. Learn how your support is needed to provide safe shelter, housing, and other critical services to women, children, and families in our community.

Premiering Tuesday, October 26th, noon-12:30 (MDT).

Not available on the 26th? A recorded version will be available.

[Register](#) now to reserve your virtual seat. to join us on October 26 or to watch later. Registration is free, and you will have the opportunity to make a donation during the event.

Thank you to our event sponsors: SMA LLP., Clearwater Credit Union, Element Physical Therapy, Blackfoot Communications, Caras Property Management, JCCS, Missoula Property Management, Morrison-Maierle, PayneWest, Providence St. Patrick Hospital, WipFli, and Northwestern Energy.

Secret Seconds Spooktacular

Halloween is right around the corner, so stop by Secret Seconds for one-of-a-kind costumes and

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accessories. Find unique vintage costumes, children's costumes, and more! But don't wait too long--Halloween merchandise is selling quickly!

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



Family Housing Center



All 25 rooms in the Family Housing Center are currently full, and there are four families in our overflow sleeping area. Housing staff are working diligently to support families in getting their basic needs met and finding permanent housing. [Learn more about our housing programs.](#)

Domestic Violence Shelter

Currently there are ten adults and five children staying at the Domestic Violence Shelter in The Meadowlark. Recently, program staff were able to help a survivor reunite with her toddler and successfully transition into another community program that will allow her to continue with her goals.

[Learn more about our domestic and sexual violence services](#)

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. Groups meet each Tuesdays at 6:15 p.m., with support groups for children offered at the same time. Free dinner is also provided at 5:30 p.m. *Please arrive by 5:45 if attending group for the first time or bringing children with you.* No registration required.

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

Get Involved

Volunteer at The Meadowlark Front Desk

We are looking for friendly and compassionate volunteers to greet residents, help direct phone call and walk-in clients to appropriate services, and assist with various projects. Shifts are flexible and available during business hours (9 AM through 5 PM).

Sign up via our [volunteer interest form](#) or call Alena at 543-6691.

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.

[View our program wish lists here](#)

Employment Opportunities

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

- Planet Kids Visit Monitor (Part Time)
- Secret Seconds Store Clerk (Full and Part Time)
- Administrative Assistant (Full 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

