THE YEAR IN REVIEW

As YWCA Missoula celebrates its 110th anniversary, it continues to focus on the current and emerging needs of women and families. Today, the new Meadowlark facility allows YWCA Missoula to shelter twice as many women and families with expanded comprehensive support and emergency housing on any given night, but challenges remain.

Rising housing costs are putting more families at risk of houselessness, the majority of which are headed by single moms. Women’s constitutional right to reproductive choice is under attack, threatening devastating consequences for young women. The pandemic-related economic effects are disproportionately impacting women who are overrepresented in vulnerable occupations or are forced to leave the workforce to provide unpaid care for family members.

The challenges are great, but YWCA Missoula is prepared. After all, the organization served the Missoula community through two World Wars, the fight for civil rights, and now, two global pandemics. As in the past, a talented and dedicated team of staff and volunteers and the support of countless community members will provide the fuel propelling YWCA Missoula forward in 2022.
ENDING DOMESTIC and SEXUAL VIOLENCE

PATHWAYS

The YWCA’s Pathways Program is more than just a shelter. We are invested in creating real change for real people, which means offering a range of ongoing support for survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Clients can reach advocates through our 24-hour hotline, walk-in counseling, and weekly support groups. Pathways also provides in-house short-term therapy, children’s services, and referrals for legal, personal, and medical advocacy.

1,468 callers were assisted on the crisis line, which operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year

4,429 nights of safe shelter were provided to adults and children fleeing violence

PLANET KIDS

Planet Kids Supervised Visitation and Exchange Center is a peaceful, safe and welcoming place where trained monitors oversee custodial exchanges and visits between children and their non-custodial parents. Planet Kids provides services to families affected by domestic, sexual and dating violence, stalking and alleged child sexual abuse.

105 children enjoyed time with their non-custodial parents at Planet Kids.

YWCA MISSOULA is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all.

With a mighty team of 61 staff and 184 volunteers, last year we served over 3,400 people—the majority of whom were low-income women.

CHANGING LIVES

230 families gained access to housing or support services.

YWCA HOUSING

The YWCA Housing Program addresses the continuum of need of unhoused families and individuals fleeing domestic violence. The Family Housing Center, jointly operated with Family Promise, operates a week-day walk-in center and offers same-day access to short-term emergency housing. YWCA Transitional Housing is an 18-month independent living program for domestic violence survivors with dependent children. Through the YWCA Rapid Rehousing Program, unhoused families and domestic violence survivors also have access to deposit and rent assistance to secure homes of their own.

TRANSFORMING our COMMUNITY

RACIAL JUSTICE

The YWCA Racial Justice Initiative aims to spark dialogue, reflection, and action about issues of racial justice in everyday places, among everyday people. This includes community presentations and responses, as well as internal programming and staff training to better serve BIPOC program participants.

GUTS!

GUTS! (Girls Using Their Strengths) encourages girls and gender-diverse youth to explore personal values, build healthy relationships and discover their strengths. GUTS! programs include school-based groups, skill-building workshops, and summer outdoor adventures.

65 girls and gender-diverse youth were empowered through school programs and summer adventures.