

ON A MISSION: AN UPDATE FOR YWCA SUPPORTERS



Greetings and Gratitude

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, a national campaign that highlights the prevalence of sexual violence and focuses on prevention. At YWCA Missoula, we understand how critical these goals are. Last year, we served over 100 survivors of sexual violence through our 24/7 sexual assault response team—which provides emotional support and resources to victims during medical evaluations or forensic interviews—and sexual assault support groups. We also assist survivors of sexual violence who call our 24/7 crisis line, find safety at our shelter, or use our counseling services.

Although we know that sexual violence is a pervasive issue that impacts everyone, not all violence is acknowledged or responded to equally, and some victims go unrecognized altogether. That is why we firmly support legislation and services that are comprehensive and inclusive of the needs of all victims of sexual violence, particularly those who face increased barriers to safety, such as Indigenous women, immigrant women, and those with multiple marginalized identities.

One of our community partners, the UM Student Advocacy Resource Center, is hosting several events to commemorate Sexual Assault Awareness Month. You can learn more about getting involved [here](#). Together we can support survivors and work to end sexual violence.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Weese'.

Cindy Weese
Executive Director

What's New

LUNAFEST Virtual Screening



FILMS BY AND ABOUT WOMEN

Join us this weekend, **April 8th-10th**, for the virtual screening of LUNAFEST, a series of short films that empower and inspire. Tickets to the screening are just \$5. All proceeds support our GUTS! programs for girls and gender-diverse youth. With your support, GUTS! hopes to expand the number of groups offered in local middle and elementary schools, as well as expand programs to rural communities across Montana.

[Get tickets HERE.](#)

You can also support GUTS! by bidding on items in the silent auction, which includes some great local experiences, or by making a donation to sponsor a GUTS! camper this summer. The auction will be open April 8th-18th. [Check it out here!](#)

Women's Law Caucus 23rd Annual Silent Auction

Bring a friend and join us for a fun social event to benefit YWCA's Domestic and Sexual Violence Programs. Admission is free.

WHERE:

All Souls Missoula
130 E. Broadway

WHEN:

Saturday, April 23rd
5:30-7:30 PM

Silent auction items include local experiences, art, and more. Enjoy live entertainment and complimentary refreshments!

[RSVP on the Facebook event page.](#)

Program Updates

Register for GUTS! Summer Outdoor Adventures

Registration is now open for GUTS! summer camps! Week-long day camps are open to girls and gender-diverse youth entering grades 5-8. Tuition is offered on a sliding-fee scale. Each day of the week, the group will travel to different destinations around town via bike to experience a variety of outdoor and community activities. Along the way, our Summer Outdoor

Adventures staff will lead GUTS! activities designed to help participants develop healthy relationships with themselves, their bodies, and their peers.

[Register for GUTS! Summer Adventures here](#)

Email [Jess](#) with any questions.



Family Housing Center



We are currently serving 20 families in the Family Housing Center. In the last month, five families have moved into permanent housing. Missoula's housing market is very limited but YWCA housing staff are working diligently with families to find rentals in the community.

[Learn more about our housing programs.](#)

Domestic Violence Shelter

The domestic violence shelter at The Meadowlark is nearly at capacity this month, with eleven adults and eleven children. While staying at the shelter, residents can participate in on-site support groups, therapeutic activities for kids, and get help finding safe and permanent housing in the community.

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

Who We Are



Jessica McManus

Jessica McManus is a clinical intern and sexual assault response advocate at YWCA Missoula and is working toward her Master of Social Work degree at the University of Montana (she's graduating in just a few weeks!). In her role at the YWCA, Jessica supports survivors through trauma, loss, and celebration, and she works to challenge the cultural norms that perpetuate domestic and sexual violence. She helps survivors plan for safety and find resources in the community-- and she believes and validates their experiences. In her (limited) free time, Jessica enjoys spending time with her dog and family, reading, and cooking.

Get Involved

Foster a Pet

YWCA Missoula is seeking Pet Advocates for survivors of intimate partner violence and unhoused families. Pet advocates foster pets for up to 60 days (with possible extension) while their



owners reside at The Meadowlark. The Humane Society of Western Montana provides food and vaccinations as needed. A short volunteer training is provided.

This service is crucial to the community as many survivors and families will not leave dangerous situations without their pets. Pet advocacy allows survivors and unhoused families peace of mind while seeking the services they need to find healing and sustainable living situations. [Email Alena](#) or call 543-6691 to sign up or learn more.

Tour The Meadowlark

Join us for an informational tour and learn about how the YWCA's programs benefit families, youth, and domestic violence survivors. **Light lunch provided upon request**

UPCOMING DATES:

Tuesday, May 10th, 12:30-1:30 p.m.

Tuesday, June 14th, 12:30-1:30 p.m.

Limited space. Please RSVP to confirm availability and request lunch

[RSVP here.](#)

Questions? [Contact Diane.](#)

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.

- [Domestic Violence Shelter needs](#)
- [Family Housing Center needs](#)
- [Planet Kids needs](#)
- [Youth Services needs](#)

Employment Opportunities

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

- Administrative Assistant (full or part time)
- Planet Kids Visit Monitor (part time)
- Racial Equity and Justice Specialist (part time)
- Pathways Overnight Advocate (full time)
- Secret Seconds store clerks (part time/ 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

