

ON A MISSION: AN UPDATE FOR YWCA SUPPORTERS



Greetings and Gratitude

After 30 years, and with warmth in my heart and a sense of accomplishment, I **have decided to retire from YWCA Missoula at the end of this year.**

I first joined the organization as a volunteer domestic violence advocate in 1992, and I began serving as executive director on September 11, 2001; I was getting ready for my first day when the planes hit the towers. From day one on the job, there has been constant change, challenge, and adaptation.

Throughout my tenure I have strived to create and maintain programming that directly addresses the needs of women in our community. I am proud that we have been able to evolve to meet these changing needs and always be available 24/7, despite very difficult circumstances, including the Great Recession and the global pandemic. I know, without doubt, that the YWCA has saved lives and changed lives for the better.

Working alongside so many of you has been a tremendous honor. It's because of community members like you that the YWCA has served Missoula for 111 years. And I'm confident that it will continue to be here for another 100 years.

A committee is overseeing the search for a new executive director, and they anticipate a selection within the next 4-6 months. I will continue to serve as director throughout this transition, and I hope to connect with you soon. Please know that I will be forever grateful for your dedication to a cause that is so very important to me.

With gratitude,

Cindy Weese
Executive Director

What's New

We Reached Our Goal: Thank You for Supporting Survivors!

Thank you to everyone who made contributions to YWCA Missoula during Missoula Gives and throughout the month of May. We reached our goal of raising \$20,000 to support our Pathways domestic and sexual violence programs. These funds will help us run critical services, including the 24/7 crisis line and our shelter, which has been nearly at capacity this spring. Thank you for making a difference!

The Meadowlark Celebrates First Anniversary

We opened The Meadowlark to the community in May 2021, and it's been a year filled with successes, challenges, and so many new learning experiences. In our first year we served 267 individuals in the Family Housing Center-- operated in



partnership with Family Promise-- and 209 survivors and children in our domestic violence shelter.

We are grateful to be here. Thank you for sharing our vision for building a safer and stronger community for all.

Program Updates

A Few Spots Open in GUTS! Summer Camps!

If you're still figuring out some summer plans, you're in luck, because GUTS! has just a few spots left in their camps! Summer camps are open to girls and gender-diverse youth entering 5th-8th grades. Tuition is offered on a sliding fee scale.

[Register and learn more here.](#) Email [Jess](#) with any questions.



A Success Story from our Housing Program

Jenna* was 8 months pregnant and had two toddlers when she moved into the Family Housing Center (FHC). She had just left her abusive partner, a brave and tough choice, which led to her also losing her housing. Up until that point her partner had controlled everything from finances to childcare. Many people aren't aware that domestic violence is in fact the leading cause of homelessness for women.

While living at the FHC, Jenna made major strides towards independence. With staff support, she was able to secure a YWCA Rapid Rehousing rent subsidy and a childcare grant.

Recently Jenna signed a lease on her very own apartment! This had been a long time coming and she made it happen through hard work and perseverance. We are so happy to celebrate Jenna's success with her!

*name changed to protect confidentiality

Who We Are



Angie Barron

Angie Barron is YWCA Missoula's Abuse in Later Life Advocate, and she supports survivors of domestic or sexual violence who are over the age of 50, as part of expanded services the YWCA is offering. Angie grew up in Billings and has lived in Missoula for 35 years. She studied psychology and addiction counseling at the University of Montana. Angie has worked in childcare and spent the last 9 years working in residential addictions programs. Angie is dedicated to helping others in need and serving survivors. Her hobbies include, reading, plants, yard care and spending time with her grandkids who light up her life.

Get Involved

Volunteer with Youth at The Meadowlark

Would you like to be a positive role model for kids who have experienced violence and/or housing instability? As a volunteer, you'll conduct therapeutic activities, play games, and be a listening ear for the youth within our shelter and in our community.

To get involved, [fill out a volunteer application](#) or [contact Alena](#).

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, July 12th, 12:30-1:30 p.m.

Tuesday, August 9th, 12:30-1:30 p.m.

Limited space. Please [RSVP here](#) to confirm availability and request lunch

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:

- Executive Director (full time)- [learn more](#)
- Volunteer Coordinator (full time)
- Planet Kids Visit Monitor (part time)
- Youth Advocate (part time)
- Support Specialist (full time)
- Women's Talking Circle Group Facilitator (3-5 hrs/week)
- Pathways Advocates (overnight & evenings, part time)
- Secret Seconds store clerks (part time/ full time)
- Secret Seconds receiving clerks (part time/ full time)
- Rapid Rehousing Coordinator (full time)
- Family Housing Center Lead Overnight Advocate (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

