

ON A MISSION: AN UPDATE FOR YWCA SUPPORTERS



Greetings and Gratitude

The holiday season can present unique challenges for the families we serve. Survivors of domestic violence may experience additional stress during a time that can be emotionally taxing. Unhoused families may struggle to enjoy holiday traditions with their children when they don't know where they will be living from week to week. And time off from school can mean additional unstructured time for kids whose parents are in crisis.

Our staff and volunteers strive to relieve stress for families and children this time of year. One way we do this is by providing support, enrichment activities and parent education through our Youth Services program. Although families stay with us at The Meadowlark only temporarily, the support they receive from our youth advocates can help reduce the impacts of trauma and set them up for brighter futures.

As we head into the winter months, let us cultivate peace and kindness in ourselves and for others.

With gratitude,

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

Cindy Weese
Executive Director

What's New

Women's Justice Benefit Luncheon, *Virtual Edition*

There are a few days left to catch the virtual edition of our annual Women's Justice Benefit Luncheon! [Watch this short 15-minute video](#) to learn more about our critical work and how you can support our programs.

[Find the virtual luncheon here](#)

Holiday Gift Drive for YWCA Families

Help spread some joy this holiday season by [donating items for gift baskets](#) to give to families in our programs! For families in crisis, these gifts can help provide a sense of normalcy and celebration during the holidays. Donations can be dropped off by **December 12th** to The Meadowlark front desk, Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm. *Please only bring items listed on the wish list.*

[View holiday wish list here.](#)

Program Updates

Planet Kids is 18 Years Old!

Planet Kids, our supervised visitation program, officially turns 18 this month! Planet Kids was started to meet a critical need in our community: providing a safe environment for children to spend time with their noncustodial parents when domestic violence has occurred within the family. Planet Kids is designed to keep survivors and their children safe, and it is currently the only program of its kind in Missoula. Thank you to our Planet Kids staff and supporters for maintaining this important service for our community!

[Learn more about Planet Kids here.](#)

GUTS! is Recruiting Group Facilitators

Our [GUTS! leadership program](#) is looking for volunteers to facilitate weekly groups for spring semester, which runs February- May 2023. Volunteers lead activities that encourage girls and gender-diverse youth to discover their personal strengths, build self-esteem, and connect with their peers. Training for volunteers will be held in January (date TBD).

To learn more about becoming a group facilitator, fill out the [GUTS! volunteer application](#) or [email Jess](#).

Shop Secret Seconds for Christmas Decorations

[Secret Seconds Thrift Stores](#) have holiday decorations out on the shelves. Find wreaths, ornaments, decorative lights, and more-- all at a great price.

As always, all store proceeds directly support all YWCA Missoula programs. Shop 920 Kensington and 1136 W. Broadway. Open Tuesday- Saturday, 12- 6 PM.

Who We Are



Karlie Southworth, Rapid Rehousing Case Manager

Karlie joins the YWCA as a case manager for the Rapid Rehousing program, which provides rent assistance and support services to help unhoused families move into their own homes. While new to this position, Karlie is not new to the YWCA-- she previously served as an intern and advocate in the domestic and sexual violence program. Karlie is currently studying Clinical Mental Health Counseling, and her passion is supporting women and families and ensuring that mental health care is available to everyone. In her free time, Karlie enjoys hiking, biking, going to coffee shops and obsessing over her cats.

Get Involved

Tour The Meadowlark

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

UPCOMING DATES:

Tuesday, December 13th, 12:30-1:30 p.m.

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

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

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](#) - Shampoo and conditioner especially!
- [Family Housing Center needs](#)
- [Youth Services needs](#)

Employment Opportunities

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

- Planet Kids visit monitor (part time)
- Youth Advocate (part time)
- Family Housing Center weekend/ evening advocate (full time)
- Secret Seconds store clerks (part time/ full time)
- Sexual Assault Response Advocate (part time, on-call)

[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

