

ON A MISSION: AN UPDATE FOR YWCA SUPPORTERS



Greetings and Gratitude

Every night, The Meadowlark is home to 50-80 children. These Missoula kids have experienced homelessness and/or domestic violence, and as a result, many of them have complex needs. That's why we will be expanding our Youth Services program in the coming year. We recognize a need to provide more comprehensive support to children and families who are residing with us, including behavioral health services, parenting education, and additional therapeutic play activities

[Would you consider making a gift to support local kids and families in crisis?](#) Although children stay at The Meadowlark only temporarily, your donation will fund services that can change the course of their young lives.

In just a few weeks I will be retiring from the YWCA. Over the last 30 years I've had the privilege of working alongside so many generous and dedicated community members like you. I am incredibly proud of all that we have accomplished together during my tenure, and it is my goal to ensure that YWCA Missoula continues to provide critical services to our community long after I am gone. Please join me in providing hope for vulnerable families.

Wishing you a safe and peaceful holiday season,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Cindy Weese'.

Cindy Weese
Executive Director

What's New

Join us for Cindy's Retirement Party

YWCA Missoula's Board of Directors invites you to celebrate Cindy Weese's retirement and her 30 years of service. Please join us December 14th!

[Find event details and RSVP here](#)

Holiday Gift Drive for YWCA Families

Help spread some joy 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](#)

Help us Raise \$20,000 for Youth Services

This holiday season, our goal is to raise \$20,000 to support kids at The Meadowlark! Our therapeutic

Youth Services, for infants through teenagers, aim to reduce the impacts of trauma on children who have experienced domestic violence or homelessness. Watch [this short video](#) to learn more about the program and how your support is needed:



[Learn more and make a donation here.](#)

Program Updates

Housing Programs

There are 211 people, including 119 children, currently living in YWCA housing. This includes those staying at the Family Housing Center shelter at The Meadowlark, as well as those who are living in longer-term transitional housing and rental assistance programs in the community. Thank you to all of our supporters and community partners for joining us in our work to end family homelessness.

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

GUTS! is Recruiting Group Facilitators

Our [GUTS! youth 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.

To learn more about becoming a group facilitator, fill out the [GUTS! volunteer application](#) or [email Jess](#). *Volunteer applications are due by January 20th*

Who We Are



Katie Samuels, Volunteer Coordinator

Katie Samuels recently joined YWCA Missoula as the new Volunteer Coordinator. Katie has a decade of experience in education and she is passionate about building relationships and creative problem solving. Katie enjoys hiking, traveling and reading in her free time. She is looking forward to meeting our new volunteers at [advocate training in January!](#)

Get Involved

Become an Advocate

We are looking for compassionate and dedicated volunteers to support survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Being an advocate is an immersive and rewarding volunteer experience, where you will work

directly with people in crisis and have the chance to really make a difference. Some opportunities include answering the 24/7 crisis line, supporting survivors at our walk-in counseling center, and assisting with therapeutic play activities for kids at the domestic violence shelter. Most of all, you will believe survivors, listen to their experiences, and empower them to re-build the lives they choose.

Interested in becoming an advocate at our domestic violence shelter/ crisis line? [Start by completing this volunteer interest form!](#)

Volunteer advocate training includes 9 training sessions between January 23rd and February 9th.

Tour The Meadowlark

Join us for an informational tour and learn about how YWCA's programs benefit families, youth, and domestic violence survivors.

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](#) - especially shampoo, conditioner, body wash and deodorant!
- [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)

[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

