

ON A MISSION: AN UPDATE FOR YWCA SUPPORTERS



Welcome Message from New Director, Jen Euell

As we begin this fresh new year, I am honored to introduce myself as YWCA Missoula's next executive director. I'm excited for the opportunity to lead an organization with such a long history and deep roots, and one that has such a profound impact on the women, children, and families in our community.

I have already had the privilege of working alongside many of you during my years as a YWCA staff and board member, or with other organizations advocating for justice and equity in our community and across the state. This is truly my passion and my life's work.

YWCA Missoula has been a space of safety, hope and possibility for more than 100 years. As executive director, I am prepared to build upon this legacy as we continue to deliver vital programs and consider what our next grand challenges might be. Two key questions have already risen to the top, as I have been working to wrap my head around our current work and impact, and the possibilities for future growth. What might be possible if we expand our prevention work to address root causes of harm? How do we grow a culture of care at the YWCA Missoula that fully values and supports both our participants *and* employees? Considering the amazing legacy of former executive director Cindy Weese, and the strong team of staff, board members and supporters the YWCA Missoula has built, the sheer potential of where we can go from here takes my breath away.

I look forward to connecting with you as we continue to fight for the YWCA mission of peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all people. The road to justice is long, but it always holds the best of company. Thank you for making the journey with us!

In Possibility,

Jen

What's New

Join us for the 2023 Annual Meeting

YWCA donors and volunteers are invited to our annual meeting on February 10th. Jen Euell will present her vision for organization in the coming year and hold a Q & A. Light breakfast provided.

[Find event details and RSVP here.](#)

Volunteer Opportunities

Do you have a new year's resolution to get more involved in the community? We currently have several volunteer opportunities that begin in the next few weeks:

- Facilitate GUTS! afterschool groups for girls and gender-diverse youth, helping them to discover their personal strengths, identify goals, and build positive friendships. [Apply to volunteer with GUTS! here.](#) *Deadline is January 20th.*
- Be an advocate for survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Volunteers answer the crisis line, help out in the domestic violence shelter, and provide support at the walk-in counseling center. *Volunteer advocate training begins January 23rd.* [Learn more here.](#)

There are other ongoing volunteer opportunities, too! [Learn about additional volunteer opportunities here.](#)

Clinical Team Wins "These Are My People" Contest

Congratulations to our clinical manager, Carol Roberts, for winning "These Are My People" contest from Parkside Credit Union, on behalf of her team of sexual assault response advocates (pictured here).



In Carol's words: "These amazing ladies are the sexual assault response advocates who I have the privilege of working with. Our team is on call 24 hours a day to advocate for survivors of sexual assault and do what we can to oppose a culture of victim blaming. We get together on a regular basis to review our work and transform stories of harm into resiliency, post-traumatic growth and community accountability. We cry together, we lift each other up, we joke, we get angry, and then we remember to create balance by focusing our awareness on the good that people do, stories of help and healing, and the love and beauty that surround us."

Carol plans to use the \$2500 prize money for the advocates to enjoy some self care together (maybe a spa experience!), care packages for survivors, and other tokens of appreciation for YWCA staff.

Program Updates

Support Group for Sexual Assault Survivors

This winter/ spring, in addition to our [weekly open support groups](#) for individuals who have experienced all forms of abuse or interpersonal violence, the YWCA will offer a 10-week, closed support group for adults of all genders who are survivors of sexual assault. A support group can offer a safe environment to share strengths and struggles and work toward healing and growth.

The group is scheduled to start mid-February. It is free to participate. Interested participants should [email Carol](#) or call (406) 543-6691 to sign up or learn more.

GUTS! is Gearing Up for Spring Semester

Our GUTS! youth empowerment program is getting ready to start spring semester groups, which are offered at elementary and middle schools in Missoula. One focus of GUTS! is building friendships. The curriculum is designed to help kids develop healthy boundaries, work through conflict, and deepen their interpersonal connections. [Learn more about GUTS! here.](#)

To stay updated on GUTS! programs and news, follow them on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#).

Secret Seconds in Need of Housewares

Are you decluttering after the holidays? Right now, [Secret Seconds Thrift Stores](#) are especially in need of gently used housewares. Bring your donations to either store location (920 Kensington & 1136 W. Broadway), Tuesday- Saturday, 10 AM- 5 PM.

As always, 100% of the net proceeds from Secret Seconds goes directly to YWCA services and subsidizes every single program, including the domestic violence shelter and Family Housing Center at The Meadowlark.

Who We Are



Katie Edens, Planet Kids Coordinator

Katie is the program coordinator for [Planet Kids](#), our supervised visitation program for families that have experienced domestic violence. Katie is a graduate of Carroll College and previously worked for YWCA Helena. Katie is passionate about interrupting cycles of trauma and violence, and believes that Planet Kids plays an important role in helping survivors and children regain confidence and control of their lives. In her free time, Katie loves backpacking, hiking with her German shepherd, making pottery and drinking copious amounts of coffee.

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.

UPCOMING DATES:

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

Tuesday, March 14th, 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](#)
- [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)
- Custodian/ Janitor (full time)
- Abuse in Later Life Advocate (full time)
- Support Specialist (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

