

ON A MISSION: AN UPDATE FOR YWCA SUPPORTERS



Greetings and Gratitude



Happy Women's History Month! (Image: YWCA Missoula members marching down Higgins Ave, 1970s)

At YWCA Missoula we have a long proud history of strong women leaders who have worked hard to care for their community members, build a safe haven for those fleeing violence, create pathways out of poverty, and lead systemic change that moves us all toward equity and justice. Women's History Month is an opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of our foremothers, and to recognize the contributions of all women and girls.

Today, thanks to the amazing team of YWCA staff members, along with our dedicated supporters, volunteers, and community partners, we carry on the work of eliminating racism and empowering women—even when that work is hard and frustrating and change feels out of reach. We are planting seeds that sometimes take years to come to fruition. We get up every day and fight to build a better world—one where all people, regardless of their race or gender, have access to the resources they need, and opportunities for growth, leadership, and power.

Currently, we are working on assessing our workplace culture and how we are supporting the YWCA team on a daily basis. Through listening sessions and meaningful conversations, we've already identified ways we can provide more flexibility, benefits, training and investment in our most important asset...our people. Later this month, we'll be hosting a full day Wellness Retreat to build community and celebrate each individual team member here at the YWCA.

While we know this work will always be challenging, we are committed to ensuring that the YWCA's commitment to empowering women and eliminating racism, and working for peace, dignity, justice and freedom, are lived values internally, as well as externally.

Thank you for all you do to make our work possible. I could not be more proud to support and celebrate all of you.

In Possibility,
Jen

What's New

Women's Law Caucus 24th Annual Silent Auction

Bring a friend and join us for the 24th annual Women's Law Caucus silent auction! This is a fun social event to benefit the Pathways Domestic and Sexual Violence Program. Admission is free.

Silent auction items include weekend getaways, local activities, food and wine baskets artwork, and more.

WHERE: Blewett School of Law on UM campus (corner of 6th St. E. and Maurice Ave).

WHEN: Friday, March 31st, 5:00-7:30 PM



Neptune Aviation Donates Valentine's Day Meal

The board of Neptune Aviation donated a delicious Valentine's Day meal to our residents in the domestic violence shelter. They also brought self-care bags for the adults and teddy bears and t-shirts were given to the children. Thanks for all the love!

Program Updates

Youth Services

There are currently 61 kids being served by Youth Services, which includes children residing in both the domestic violence shelter and Family Housing Center at The Meadowlark. This month Youth Services teamed up with volunteers from Family Promise to offer lots of baking activities. They also recently started a weekly story time and art group.

Youth Services is offering two GUTS! groups this semester on site at The Meadowlark! These groups are open to any kids in the community who don't have a GUTS! group available at their school. It's been fun to have groups right here at the YWCA home base!

Learn more about Youth Services [here](#).

Secret Seconds Needs Housewares

Are you moving or de-cluttering at home? YWCA [Secret Seconds Thrift Stores](#) are in need of gently used housewares and furniture. Secret Seconds provides critical funding to YWCA Missoula and generates about 30 percent of our total income. Donating items to Secret Seconds is a great way to support all of our programs!

Donations are accepted at both store locations, 920 Kensington and 1136 W. Broadway, Tuesday-Saturday, 10am- 5 pm.

Who We Are



Mia Mckinney, GUTS! Program Coordinator

Mia Mckinney is the new GUTS! Program Coordinator! A former Youth Advocate and longtime volunteer with the [GUTS! program](#), Mia is excited to begin this new role, and to continue empowering young people to identify their strengths and how to use them. Mia studied Sociology and Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies at the University of Montana. She was also the student director of the Gender Equity Resource Center on campus. Having lived experience as a queer woman, Mia values the creation of safe spaces for youth with marginalized identities. In her free time Mia enjoys crafting, thrifting (shout out Secret Seconds!), spending time outdoors, karaoke and dancing!

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, April 11th, 12:30-1:30 p.m.

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

Tuesday, June 13th, 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:

- Overnight Pathways advocate (part time)
- Secret Seconds store clerks (part time/ full time)
- Support Specialist (full time)
- Fund Development Associate (part 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

