

## ON A MISSION: AN UPDATE FOR YWCA SUPPORTERS



### Greetings and Gratitude

April is Sexual Assault Awareness month, a time dedicated to education, prevention efforts, and survivor support that we carry on throughout the year. Every day we get up and do the work—whether it's accompanying a survivor to a medical evaluation, or talking to a caller on the crisis line who's worried about a friend who's being harassed, or offering healing and growth through our sexual assault support group.

At YWCA Missoula we know that sexual violence is a pervasive issue that impacts everyone... and that not all violence is acknowledged or responded to equally. Some victims go unrecognized altogether. That's why, in our commitment to end sexual violence, we must examine and challenge social norms, attitudes, and beliefs that contribute to the normalization and perpetration of that violence. Doing so is essential to all survivors—especially those who face higher barriers to safety, including Indigenous women, unhoused women, and folks with multiple marginalized identities. If you'd like to get more involved, one of our community partners, the UM Student Advocacy Resource Center (SARC), is hosting several events to commemorate Sexual Assault Awareness Month. You can learn more [here](#).

This month is also the kick-off of [YWCA USA's annual Racial Justice Challenge](#) Until Justice Just Is, a 21-day opportunity for us all to learn together about racism and what we can do to end it. Everyone is invited and encouraged to join.

YWCA Missoula, along with community partners, will be co-hosting a free screening of the first episode of *Murder in Big Horn*, a documentary about the MMIW crisis in Montana, on May 4th. You can find the details below.

Together we can end sexual violence, create change, and build a safer and equitable world. Thank you for joining us!

In Possibility,  
Jen

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### What's New

#### Free Screening of *Murder in Big Horn*

Join YWCA Missoula, All Nations Health Center, and SARC for a free screening of [Murder in Big Horn](#) (Episode 1), a Showtime documentary series that investigates the epidemic of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) from the Crow and Northern Cheyenne nations. This is an opportunity to learn and get more involved with this critical issue.

**WHERE:** UC Theater, University Center- 3rd Floor, University of Montana

**WHEN:** Thursday, May 4th

- 4:00 PM- [Indigenous Made Missoula](#) pop-up market
- 6:30 PM- *Murder in Big Horn* screening
- 7:30 PM- Panel discussion with journalist Luella Brien, filmmakers Ivy and Ivan McDonald, and others

[Learn more here.](#)

**Missoula Gives: May 4th- 5th**

We are excited to participate in Missoula Gives, an annual community day of giving! This year we are raising funds for our *Housing Programs*. With your support, YWCA Missoula helps unhoused families find and maintain stable housing and achieve self-sufficiency.



MISSOULAGIVES

## Racial Justice Challenge

Join YWCAs across the country for the Racial Justice Challenge, which provides a virtual learning community and daily activities to raise awareness of systemic racism and how to advance justice. The challenge begins April 17th and runs for four weeks. The topics that will be explored are: disability, housing, mental health, and music.

[Learn more and sign up!](#)

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## Program Updates

### GUTS! Summer Camp Registration

This summer our GUTS! program will run four different day camps in Missoula for 5th-9th graders. Each day the group will travel to different destinations around town via bike to experience a variety of outdoor and community activities. Along the way, our staff will also lead GUTS! activities designed to help campers develop healthy relationships with themselves, their bodies, and their peers. GUTS! welcomes girls, non-binary, transgender, two-spirit, and gender-diverse youth.

[Learn more and register for GUTS! summer here](#)

### Housing update

In the last month, six families that were staying at The Meadowlark moved into permanent housing with the support of YWCA Rapid Rehousing rental assistance. This is a huge success! Congratulations to all the families on their persistence and hard work to find housing.

We also appreciate the volunteers from Family Promise and the Housing Advocate Network who spearheaded a ["Welcome Basket" drive](#) to provide families some household essentials for their move-in. Thank you!

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## Who We Are



### Frances King, Justice for Montanans AmeriCorps Member/ Support Specialist

Frances King is doing a year of service with AmeriCorps as a Support Specialist in the Family Housing Center. She works alongside unhoused families to find resources they need to pursue their personal goals and move into stable housing—"It's been a joy working alongside and getting to know all of the families," Frances says. Frances' previous experiences with political organizing, a nurses union, and the Montana Conservation Corps have instilled in her a desire to serve and support her neighbors, and the YWCA's mission to empower women and eliminate racism while addressing housing insecurity is what drew her to serve here. In her free time, Frances loves to hike, cook, knit, read, camp, and swim! Since moving to Montana last year, she has become a big fan of exploring hot springs and birding with friends.

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## Get Involved

**Serve the YWCA through AmeriCorps**

YWCA Missoula is looking for talented, self-motivated, and hardworking people to support our programs and community through AmeriCorps service! We are currently recruiting two people to serve with our GUTS/ Youth Services summer programs, and one year-long AmeriCorps VISTA to serve with our Housing Programs. Please spread the word!

[Learn more here.](#)

## Tour The Meadowlark

Join us for an informational tour and learn about the impact of YWCA's programs YWCA's programs on families, youth, and domestic violence survivors.

### UPCOMING DATES:

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. Right now *we are only accepting new/ unused items that are on our wish lists.* 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:

- Support Specialist (full time)
- Fund Development Associate (part time)
- Family Housing Center evening advocate (part time)

[Find job descriptions and application instructions here](#)

YWCA Missoula | (406) 543-6691 | [www.ywcamissoula.org](http://www.ywcamissoula.org)

Crisis line: (406) 542-1944 or (800) 483-7858

STAY CONNECTED

