

ON A MISSION: AN UPDATE FOR YWCA SUPPORTERS



Greetings and Gratitude

At the YWCA Missoula, a primary focus of our work is providing housing for those who are houseless. One misconception about houseless families is that their circumstances are a result of poor choices. Although there are many factors that contribute to a person losing their housing, often *racial inequity is at the root* of who ends up without a safe place to live.

Our country's history of discriminatory practices—like redlining and the forced removal of Indigenous communities from their native lands—have denied people of color access to housing, support, and economic opportunity. And those impacts carry on today. As in communities across the country, Missoula's BIPOC residents experience homelessness at significantly higher rates. Despite being a predominantly white community (86%, according to 2021 census data), about 35% of the folks who seek shelter at our Family Housing Center are people of color.

Here at the YWCA, we strive to be a place where everyone feels welcome and empowered. Where families can rest and get access to the resources they need—whether it's a safe haven, childcare, diapers, or food—and have support moving into permanent housing. We continue to work on our own learning about diversity and inclusion as an organization. Over the last month we have been excited to participate in the "Until Justice Just Is" challenge sponsored by YWCA USA, exploring the intersections of race, ability, gender and mental health with housing challenges. [You can learn more about these issues here.](#)

But beyond our personal and organizational development, as an agency and community, we must constantly be working together toward bigger picture solutions: appropriate, affordable and accessible housing for all. Greater accountability for landlords, lenders, and others in the housing sector, to prevent housing discrimination. More economic opportunities for women, especially women of color.

Everyone deserves safe and decent housing. When we all have access to this necessity, we create the opportunity for a brighter future for all of us.

Onward,
Jen

What's New



Support our Housing Programs

Thank you to everyone who donated during Missoula Gives! We are so grateful for this generous community that continues to show up for Missoula nonprofits. We couldn't do our work without YOU.

Your donation to our Housing Programs helps fund:

- Emergency shelter for unhoused Missoula families
- Rental assistance to help families move into permanent housing
- Basic needs like baby diapers, phones, and gas cards

We are continuing to raise funds for our family housing programs through the end of the month. Can you pitch in to help us reach our goal of \$15,000? We're almost 40% there! Every dollar makes a difference.

[Learn more and donate here](#)

Murder in Big Horn Screening

There was a great turnout for the [Murder in Big Horn](#) Screening, hosted with All Nations Health Center and SARC. Thank you to everyone who attended and joined the conversation about the MMIW crisis and action items.

Want to learn more and get involved? [Here is a list](#) of just a few MMIW resources.

Program Updates

GUTS! summer camps have a few openings left!



There are still spots available in a few of the GUTS! day camps this summer! Each day the group will travel to different destinations around Missoula 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](#)

Get 20% off at Secret Seconds

Are you decluttering at home? Secret Seconds Thrift Stores are offering a **20% off coupon with the donation of gently used housewares**, now through the end of June! Housewares include kitchen items, art, and knick-knacks/ collectibles.

Visit either store location to donate or shop: 920 Kensington and 1136 W. Broadway. Open 11am- 6pm, Tuesday-Saturday.

Follow Secret Seconds on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) to learn about special inventory or upcoming promotions!

Planet Kids

May is Supervised Visitation Awareness Month so we'd like to give a huge shoutout to our all-star team at Planet Kids for all the important and necessary work they do to support families who use our services.

At [Planet Kids](#) we provide a safe, child-centered environment where noncustodial parents can spend time with their kids when domestic or sexual violence has occurred in the family. Planet Kids also offers custody exchanges, so that separated parents can avoid contact with one another when trading off parenting time. Planet Kids serves families with babies through teens, and offers lots of fun activities, an outdoor play space and kitchen area at the visitation center.

Last month Planet kids served 39 families, and provided 109 supervised visits and 80 safe custody exchanges. Thank you, Planet Kids team, for providing such a vital service to the Missoula community!

Who We Are



Jaycee Marceau, Family Housing Center Shelter Coordinator

Jaycee oversees the day-to-day operations of the Family Housing Center, where up to 31 families can receive shelter and support services. Jaycee is an enrolled member of the Blackfeet Tribe, was born on the Blackfeet Reservation and grew up in East Glacier Park Village. They moved to Missoula to attend college as a non-traditional student and study Social Work. Jaycee developed a passion for advocacy and serving unhoused people while working at the Poverello. They also love working with children. In their free time, Jaycee loves to ski, backpack, tend to their 40+ houseplants and spend time with their pets.

Get Involved

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, June 13th, 12:30-1:30 p.m.

Tuesday, July 11th, 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)
- GUTS! Advocate (part time)
- Pathways Evening Advocate (part time)
- Overnight Coordinator (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

