

## ON A MISSION: AN UPDATE FOR YWCA SUPPORTERS



### Greetings and Gratitude

In my work, I am often asked whether we actually have homeless families in Missoula. It's an understandable question....you don't see families camping out in public areas. These families make up many of the invisible homeless, often camping in friends' yards, on couches, or out of town, to ensure they fly under the radar.

In these hot summer months, unhoused families face numerous challenges, without access to the stability, resources, and childcare that school often provides. Folks living in cars or tents must contend with high temperatures and wildfire smoke. And now, more than ever, the high cost of rent and extremely limited availability of housing create insurmountable barriers for many families in our programs.

The need for emergency shelter—including housing for families with children, like we offer at The Meadowlark—is in high demand in our community and across the state. In response, we are evolving and improving our services for houseless families. This includes providing more intensive and intentional case management and mental health support for children and families. Our goal is to reduce the number of days our families need to spend in shelter and accelerate their path to permanent housing. We know that the longer a family spends in shelter, the worse their long-term outcomes become.

We are continuing to work with the Missoula Interfaith Collaborative and Family Promise, as well as many other community partners, and seeking the input of our participants with lived experience of houselessness, to find solutions and meet the increased need for shelter, long-term housing, and support services.

With the support of many, I'm thankful that we're able to provide emergency shelter this summer (with air conditioning!) for up to 31 families at a time, food, and other services that are so clearly needed by our community right now. Everyone deserves a safe place to live, at all times of the year.

With Gratitude,  
Jen

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### What's New

#### Join us for PaddleHeads game on July 18th

YWCA Missoula is teaming up with the Missoula Paddleheads to 'Strike Out Domestic Violence' and raise money for our domestic and sexual violence programs. **All ticket sales that we generate for the baseball game on Tuesday, July 18th will be donated to the YWCA!**

Make sure to [purchase your tickets using this link](#) to ensure that 100% of your ticket price goes directly to YWCA Missoula at the end of the PaddleHeads' season! See you at the ballpark!

#### Shop handmade bags and support the YWCA

Longtime YWCA Missoula supporter and volunteer extraordinaire, Cindy Nesselroad, is selling handmade bags and purses of various sizes and patterns at local craft markets and donating 100% of the profits to the YWCA! Find Cindy's wares at



the [Orchard Homes Farmers Market](#) every Thursday (except July 13th) and the Clinton Pie Festival on July 16th. Thank you for the amazing support, Cindy!

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## Program Updates

### Half Off Sale at Secret Seconds: July 21 & 22



Get 50% off all clothing, shoes and accessories! Friday and Saturday, July 21st and 22nd only.

Visit either store location, 920 Kensington and 1136 W. Broadway. Open 10 AM- 6 PM.

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

### GUTS! Summer Adventures



GUTS! summer adventures are off to a great start! This week, campers are traveling to different destinations around town via bike. They'll also hike, explore local parks, garden, and float the river. Along the way, staff lead GUTS! activities designed to help participants develop healthy relationships with themselves, their bodies, and their peers.

[Learn more](#) about the GUTS! leadership program for girls and gender-diverse youth.

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## Who We Are



### Volunteer Spotlight: Nick & Clare Anderson

Nick and Clare Anderson recently began offering free clinics at The Meadowlark to help YWCA families navigate the legal processes around divorce, parenting plans, and orders of protection. They are both retired attorneys who practiced family law for over 25 years before settling into retirement. Thank you, Nick and Clare, for graciously offering your time and expertise!

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## Get Involved

Volunteer this Summer

In addition to our ongoing volunteer opportunities, we have a couple of special projects this summer that we are looking for volunteers to help with:

- Pick up breakfast from the Missoula Food Bank and deliver to YWCA (any day, M-F)
- Painting the walls of visitation room at Planet Kids
- Preparing a group meal for families to share together at Planet Kids (this is an ongoing 1x/month commitment)

Want to pitch in on one of these projects or learn more? Fill out our [volunteer interest form](#) or call Katie at 543-6691.

## Tour The Meadowlark

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

### UPCOMING DATES:

Tuesday, August 8th, 12:30-1:30 p.m.

Tuesday, September 12th, 12:30-1:30 p.m.

*Limited space. Please [RSVP here](#) to confirm availability.*

Tuesdays at 12:30 don't work for you? [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:

- Family Housing Center Evening/Weekend Advocate (part time)
- Pathways Evening Advocate (part time)
- Youth Advocate (part time)
- Fill-in Advocate (on-call, 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

