

ON A MISSION: AN UPDATE FOR YWCA SUPPORTERS



Greetings and Gratitude

Back to school can be an exciting time of the year, though it also presents new challenges and additional stressors for the families in our programs to navigate. *Which school do your kids attend when you move or lose your housing? How do kids do their homework when you're all staying in one room together in the shelter? Where do you find the resources for back-to-school clothes and supplies, when you don't have resources for housing?*

In collaboration with the school district and other community partners, we support families at The Meadowlark with things like enrolling in school, acquiring needed supplies, and arranging bus transportation. This helps provide security and consistency for the kids and takes a burden off parents.

We've also recognized the need to provide families with additional, wraparound support while they're staying with us. Virtually every resident of The Meadowlark has experienced trauma, and as a result, we have seen an increasing number of children and families dealing with mental health and substance abuse issues. We are thrilled that we were recently awarded a planning grant from the Montana Healthcare Foundation to help us explore how we can expand our behavioral health and case management services to ensure that even our families who have additional challenges and barriers get the support they need to succeed in our programs and move on to a thriving life.

Today we have 31 children at The Meadowlark. They won't be with us very long, but our hope is that their stay here will feel safe and positive, and that their return to school this fall is as seamless as possible. And during this short window of opportunity, YWCA Missoula will work hard to provide the best, needed support for kids and their families, so that this time in their lives can help equip them with the skills and resources to respond to life's challenges and set them up for a brighter future.

As always, so grateful for your company on the long road to justice. This work is impossible without each of you.

Jen

What's New

Volunteer Advocate Training Begins September 11

We are looking for compassionate and dedicated volunteers to support survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Being an advocate is an immersive and rewarding volunteer experience, where you will have the chance to really make a difference. Some opportunities include answering the 24/7 crisis line, supporting survivors at our walk-in counseling center, and assisting at the domestic violence shelter. Most of all, you will believe survivors, listen to their experiences, and empower them to re-build the lives they choose.

Interested in becoming an advocate at our domestic violence shelter/ crisis line? [Start by completing this volunteer interest form!](#) Or [email Katie](#).

Volunteer advocate training includes 9 training sessions between September 11th and 28th.

Volunteer to Support Kids

This fall we have two different opportunities for volunteers who want to support and mentor children of all ages!

- Support kids who are residing at The Meadowlark by leading activities, such as arts and crafts and story time. [Learn more here.](#)
- Facilitate a weekly afterschool group for girls and gender-diverse youth, through our leadership and empowerment program, GUTS. Stay tuned for more information on fall training, or [email Mia](#) with questions.



Sadie's Run Pet Area Dedicated for Pam Greer

We are thrilled to officially dedicate the new outdoor pet area at our domestic violence shelter, Sadie's Run, in honor of our incredible, long time volunteer, Pam Greer. Pam has been a volunteer with our Pathways domestic and sexual violence program for 25 years! She shows up every week (or more often if needed) to provide crisis counseling at our walk-in center and support survivors on their path to safety and healing. Pam, thank you so much for all you do for the YWCA and the community.

Program Updates

Shop for Griz Wear at Secret Seconds



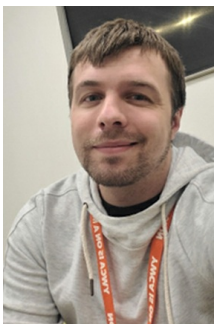
Head back to school in style! Our Secret Seconds Thrift Stores have tons of Griz wear on the shelves, including hoodies, shirts, jackets, and kid sizes. Visit either store location, 920 Kensington and 1136 W. Broadway. Open 10 AM- 6 PM.

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

Meadowlark Residents Transition to Permanent Housing

While it is still very challenging to find housing in Missoula, we did have residents of The Meadowlark successfully transition into housing last month. Five families staying in the Family Housing Center moved into permanent housing, thanks to their persistence and hard work, along with the support of our housing staff. Congratulations to all of these families! There were also nine residents from the domestic violence shelter able to find housing last month. We wish them the best as they take the next steps on their path to safety and security.

Who We Are



Gage Weston, Youth Services Manager

Gage recently stepped into the position of Youth Services program manager after working as an advocate in the domestic violence shelter. Gage has worked with youth for ten years in multiple capacities, including school settings, mental health residential homes, and emergency foster care. He believes that every individual has their own story and perspective that deserves to be heard, and he is passionate about empowering and supporting the kids that are served at the YWCA. Gage is a big fan of summer activities, and enjoys golfing, floating the river, and spending time with his family. He also loves learning random facts just in case they every come up at trivia night. Congrats on your new position, Gage!

Get Involved

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

Tuesday, October 10th, 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 Bedsheets (and Other Items on Our Wish List)

Our domestic violence shelter and family housing center are both greatly in need of **twin and full size bedsheets**, as well as comforters/blankets. Gently used sheets and/or kids sheets are great. Donations can be dropped off at The Meadowlark, Monday-Friday, 9-5.

Do you have other items you'd like to donate? Check out our complete program wish lists:

- [Domestic Violence Shelter](#)
- [Family Housing Center](#)
- [Children's Wish List](#)

Employment Opportunities

Join our team! We're currently hiring for the following positions:

- Office Manager (full time)
- Secret Seconds Store Clerk (part/full time)
- Rapid Rehousing Case Manager (full time)
- Family Housing Center Manager (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

