

# ON A MISSION: AN UPDATE FOR YWCA SUPPORTERS



## Greetings and Gratitude

While the affordable housing crisis in Missoula is real, and growing, we can celebrate the progress of the network of solution-oriented change-makers who are working to address this issue every day.

YWCA Missoula is proud to be one vital component of this network, through our emergency housing for houseless families and those who have experienced violence, and our Transitional and Rapid Rehousing Program. These programs offer rent and deposit assistance to unhoused families, as well as case management and individualized support, to help them find and maintain their own housing. When families become housed, they are better able to address other challenges that may have contributed to their houselessness, such as finding employment or mental health support. Families can receive up to two years of rental assistance through Rapid Rehousing, and the amount of assistance decreases slowly over the second year, to allow families time to build up to paying their full rent. Today we have 36 formerly unhoused families, including 60 children, that are living in their own housing thanks to Rapid Rehousing.

But our ability to help move our participants into permanent homes is not possible if there are no low-barrier, affordable homes available. In the last couple of months, we have made rapid progress housing families, partially because of the availability of housing in the new Trinity and Villagio housing developments. Since June 1, 2023, six families moved out of our Family Housing Center, operated in partnership with MIC's Family Promise, and into the new Trinity apartments. Partners in these projects include Missoula Housing Authority, Homeward, the city and county of Missoula, as well as innovative developers and funders, and service providers such as All Nations, Partnership Health Center and more.

It is the network of providers, all working toward a common goal of providing quality, accessible, affordable housing to all of our neighbors in Missoula, that give us a real chance at providing brighter futures for our houseless community members....and our community as a whole.

Here's to the power of community and collaboration,  
Jen

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## What's New

### GUTS! is Looking for Group Facilitators

Our [GUTS! leadership and empowerment program](#) is looking for volunteer mentors to lead weekly after-school groups made up of girls and gender-diverse youth from the Missoula community. A GUTS! Action Group Facilitator must be a creative, caring, supportive, open-minded and dedicated person, committed to creating a safe environment for young people to discuss real issues in their lives.

The Fall Semester groups run September 25- December 9 and require a 2-3 hour time commitment per week. [Learn more and sign up to volunteer here!](#)

### Volunteer to Support Kids at The Meadowlark

Dedicate your time and passion to positively impact children and families who are residing at The Meadowlark. Volunteers lead activities, such as arts and crafts, cultural activities, and story time. Volunteer training is being held October 4th and 5th [Learn more here.](#)

Canyon River Ladies League Golf  
Tournament Supports YWCA



Thank you to the Canyon River Ladies Golf League for supporting the YWCA domestic violence shelter through their annual fundraising tournament! We so appreciate their ongoing support.

They are looking for more teams to join next year-[contact them to learn more.](#)

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## Program Updates

### Support Group for Survivors of Sexual Assault

In addition to shelter, the YWCA Pathways domestic and sexual violence program offers a range of ongoing support services. This fall, in addition to our weekly open support groups for survivors of domestic violence, we will offer a 10-week, closed support group for people of all genders who are survivors of sexual assault. A support group can provide survivors with a safe environment to share strengths and struggles, and to work toward healing and growth. Last year, 120 people participated in YWCA support groups.

The group is scheduled to begin October 9th. Interested participants should [email Tracy](#) or call (406) 543-6691 to sign up or learn more.

### Halloween and Griz Wear Available at Secret Seconds

Shop for Halloween costumes and decorations at Secret Seconds Thrift Stores! They also have tons of *new* Griz wear (at thrift prices!) 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!

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## Who We Are



### Kristina Wasson, Rapid Rehousing Coordinator

Kristina oversees the case management of the Rapid Rehousing Program, which provides rental assistance funding and support to unhoused families. Kristina is passionate about ending homelessness in our community through advocacy, education, and empowerment. She has spent the past 30 years working in healthcare and social services. Before coming to the YWCA, Kristina was an administrator for two assisted living facilities and the Associate Director of Residential for a local nonprofit serving adults with disabilities. In her free time, she enjoys spending time outdoors around Missoula with her six children.

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## 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, November 14th, 12:30-1:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 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 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 here](#).

**You can also order wish list items (including bedsheets) from our new [Amazon wish list](#)** and have them shipped to us directly - just select YWCA Missoula shipping address at checkout!

## Employment Opportunities

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

- Secret Seconds Store Clerk (part/full time)
- Pathways Evening Advocate (part time)
- Family Housing Center Evening & Weekend Advocate (part time)
- Rapid Rehousing Case Manager (full time)
- Pathways 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

