

ON A MISSION: AN UPDATE FOR YWCA SUPPORTERS



Greetings and Gratitude

Happy Native American Heritage Month! This is a time to honor and celebrate the culture, traditions, and accomplishments of Indigenous peoples. As we commemorate their history, we also recognize the toll that centuries of violence and oppression continue to take on Native communities.

At the YWCA we serve a disproportionate number of Indigenous people and families in both our domestic violence shelter and family housing program. The history of oppression, as well as the violence and discrimination that continues today, is at the root of homelessness for Indigenous people. We are committed to building program policies and practices, as well as ongoing learning as an organization, to better serve the needs of our Native American participants, and ultimately foster a more inclusive and welcoming community. This will be one focus of ours in the coming year.

I'd like to highlight that on November 25th, there will be a "We Are Still Here" rally at the Fairgrounds, led by ACLU of Montana, affirming the presence and voices of Indigenous communities. Following the rally, an [Indigenous Made Missoula Winter Market](#) will provide an opportunity to support local Indigenous artists and entrepreneurs.

Please join us, here at YWCA Missoula, in acknowledging the importance of Native American Heritage Month, not just as a time of remembrance, but as a call to action to center the needs of the Native American community. Together, we can contribute to a more inclusive and equitable society.

In Solidarity and Possibility,

Jen

What's New

Secret Seconds 50% Off Sale!

Get half off all clothing, shoes, and accessories! **This Friday and Saturday, November 17th and 18th only.** Visit either store location, 920 Kensington and 1136 W. Broadway. Open 10 AM- 6 PM.



Join us on Giving Tuesday - November 28th

This Giving Tuesday, stand with survivors of domestic and sexual violence and help create a brighter, safer future for people in our community. [Our goal is to raise \\$10,000 for our Pathways Program](#) and help fund essential services, including safe shelter at The Meadowlark, counseling, legal support, and advocacy. Be part of a global movement to give back on Tuesday, November 28th!

[Learn more here.](#)

Donations Bring Warmth and Comfort to The Meadowlark

Thank you to Young Mazda Missoula for donating dozens of cozy throw blankets and hygiene kits for

residents of The Meadowlark. We also appreciate Flying S Title and Escrow for partnering with the YWCA this year for "Socktober"-- an annual drive that brought in 299 pairs of socks! Support from local businesses like these truly makes a difference!



Program Updates

Pathways Domestic Violence Shelter Update

The domestic violence shelter has been increasingly busy, with 22 adults and 18 children currently staying there. Having the shelter this full is very challenging, with communal living and limited space. Our staff and volunteers are doing a great job juggling additional duties and continuing to ensure that survivors in our community have a safe place to go. Thank you to the entire Pathways team!

One family from shelter was recently accepted into the YWCA's Transitional Housing Program, which provides 18 months of housing and support to domestic violence survivors and their children. This program focuses on helping participants build life skills and economic stability, and ultimately transition into permanent housing.

Holidays at the Meadowlark

Exciting holiday preparations are underway at The Meadowlark! Last year, thanks to the incredible generosity of community groups and individuals, we delivered gift baskets to 50 families in our programs.

Anticipating increased need, **we seek your support to create 55 gift baskets**. Our holiday program supports families and survivors staying with us at The Meadowlark.

[Please view our holiday wish list and sign up to donate items here!](#)

If you have questions or would like shop for a specific child's wish list, please [email Katie](#), volunteer coordinator, or call (406) 543-6691.

Who We Are



Khadija Davis, Racial Justice & Equity Program Manager

Meet Khadija, a passionate advocate for equity and justice, who hails from Missoula and recently completed a two-year Master's in Public Administration program with a concentration in nonprofit work in Portland, Oregon. During graduate school, she dedicated her efforts to an organization providing anti-racist and intersectional feminist leadership training to women and gender-expansive individuals across Oregon. The organization's programming was designed through a Queer Black feminist praxis, which Khadija incorporates in her approach to racial equity and justice work.

Khadija is deeply invested in her work and the mission of the YWCA, driven by a profound belief that active participation in anti-oppression work benefits everyone, especially those engaged in YWCA programs. In her free time, Khadija enjoys hiking, crocheting, yoga and reading.

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

Tuesday, January 9th, 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 Shampoo & Conditioner (and Other Wish List Items)

Our domestic violence shelter and family housing center are both greatly in need of **full size shampoo and conditioner**. 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 shampoo and conditioner) from our [Amazon wish list](#) and have them shipped to us directly - just select YWCA Missoula shipping address at checkout!

Other Ways to Give

Rather than cash, many donors are choosing to make **tax-smart donations** by giving stocks, securities, or mutual funds. Giving assets like these can allow you to have a bigger impact at less cost to you.

[Learn more about tax-smart giving here](#)

Employment Opportunities

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

- Director of People and Operations (full time)
- Secret Seconds Store Clerk (part/full time)
- Pathways Evening Advocate (part time)
- On-call Fill-in Staff (part time)
- Youth Advocate (part 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

