

ON A MISSION: AN UPDATE FOR YWCA SUPPORTERS



Greetings and Gratitude

As I approach my one-year anniversary as YWCA Missoula's executive director, I've been reflecting on what has been accomplished and what lies ahead. And I'm incredibly grateful to all our supporters, staff, volunteers, and community partners. Thank you for your unwavering dedication and generosity as you join us in our vital work.

I'm thrilled that together we not only kept our 24/7 emergency Family Housing and Pathways shelters going strong, but also expanded our support for families at The Meadowlark through our new Family Wrap-Around Care Pilot Project. We are working to build brighter futures for the families we serve by connecting them to skill-building, counseling and behavioral health support.

I'm excited to share some news about our Pathways domestic and sexual violence program. As of today, we are already [halfway to our fundraising goal of \\$20,000](#) by the end of the year. Your generosity is making a real difference in the lives of those we serve.

Last year alone, Pathways supported over 1500 individuals, including over 200 adults and children who sought safety at our shelter in The Meadowlark after fleeing violent homes. Pathways goes beyond providing shelter, though; our program also offers counseling, legal support, and advocacy to help survivors heal and achieve their goals. And thanks to your support, starting this year, we are now able to welcome pets into our shelter as well.

You are the secret ingredient at the heart of all of this good work. So let's keep the momentum going. Your continued support will help us reach our goal and ensure that the Pathways program remains a beacon of hope for those in Missoula. Thank you for standing with us in creating a stronger, more supportive community for everyone.

Wishing you all a joyous and fulfilling holiday season!

Jen

What's New

Help us Reach our Year-End Fundraising Goal!

Thanks to our generous community for helping us raise nearly \$10,000 on Giving Tuesday for our Pathways domestic and sexual violence programs! But we're not stopping there. [We're extending our goal until the end of the year to raise an additional \\$10,000](#) to reach our overall goal of \$20,000. This will allow us to have an even bigger impact. With your support we can continue to run our safe shelter at The Meadowlark, 24-hour crisis hotline, support groups, and more. Thank you for making a difference!

[Learn more and donate here](#)

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.](#)

Program Updates

GUTS! Groups Wrap Up With Impactful Action Projects



As we bid farewell to fall, our [GUTS! school groups](#) are wrapping up their semester with a bang! Over the last few months, these young changemakers have been developing some fantastic Action Projects to sprinkle kindness in our community.

Paxson Elementary's GUTS! powerhouse crew (pictured here) recently set up a hot cocoa stand, warming hearts and tummies alike! Their sweet endeavor wasn't just about sipping cocoa; it was a mission to raise funds for Animeals and keep our furry friends well-fed. Here's to GUTS!, where big changes can start with small actions!

Want to join the fun and get involved? GUTS! is looking for at least 4 more volunteers to join us next semester (February-May) as we expand to several new schools! [Learn more and apply to volunteer with GUTS here.](#)

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.

Give the Gift of Thrift!



This holiday season, spread joy and support YWCA Missoula programs by snagging gift certificates from Secret Seconds Thrift Stores! Perfect for your eco-conscious friends or fashion-forward family members, these gift certificates promise a trove of unique finds. Let's make this season extra special by wrapping up gifts that give back!

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

Who We Are



Chuck Moua, Youth Advocate

Chuck brings a wealth of experience and passion to his role as a Youth Advocate at The Meadowlark. Having started as a teaching aid in a summer program for his Hmong community, he later earned a bachelor's degree in social work from the University of Montana in 2022. Chuck's dedication stems from his desire to be a positive influence and a guiding force for the kids at the shelter. He envisions a future where each child has the chance to embrace their true selves. Beyond his commitment to the mission, Chuck's hobbies include sketching and indulging in geek culture, and fostering connections with the kids through shared interests, which makes his job incredibly rewarding.

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.

Tuesday, February 13th, 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 New Underwear (and Other Wish List Items)

Our domestic violence shelter is in need of **new underwear** of various sizes. 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 underwear) from our [Amazon wish list](#) and have them shipped to us directly - just select YWCA Missoula shipping address at checkout!

Donate Activity Items for Kids and Teens at The Meadowlark

Help bring holiday cheer to older kids and teens in our shelters by donating gently used toys and activities. We're looking for items like a **ping pong table**, **air hockey table**, **dollhouse**, and more to create a welcoming environment. To donate, please [contact Gage](#) or call (406) 543-6691.

Employment Opportunities

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

- Housing Stabilization Case Manager (full time)
- Family Housing Center Advocate (part time)
- Secret Seconds Store Clerk (part/full time)
- On-call Relief 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

