

# ON A MISSION: AN UPDATE FOR YWCA SUPPORTERS



## Greetings and Gratitude

Happy Black History Month! Join us as we celebrate Black women of the past and present, honoring their resilience, dignity, and power. This month is also an opportunity to engage in conversations that foster better support for our Black community members. You can follow along on our [Instagram](#) or [Facebook](#) as we share stories, information, and resources throughout February.

Today I'd like to highlight the remarkable Dr. Dorothy Height, a civil rights leader and trailblazer, who played a pivotal role as the first Director of Racial Justice for the national YWCA. In an era when racial segregation persisted in many YWCA chapters until the 1960s, Dr. Height championed intersectional activism, shaping the organization's integration policies. Dorothy Height's vision and work carries on today in our mission statement and in the work of all our programs. Thank you, Dr. Height!

Additionally, we'd like to highlight the UM Black Student Union's annual Black Solidarity Summit, which is taking place on February 9th (5 PM - 9 PM) and 10th (9:45 AM - 7 PM) in the University of Montana UC Ballroom. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. You can learn more [here](#).

Let this Black History Month be a time of reflection, education, and empowerment as we celebrate the legacies of those who paved the way for a more just and equitable future.

In Possibility,  
Jen

## What's New

### Join Us for Our Annual Meeting on Feb 9th

All YWCA Missoula supporters and community members are invited to join us for our annual meeting and a light buffet breakfast on Friday, February 9th. You'll hear about our successes and challenges of the last year and plans for 2024.

We're very excited to welcome **Denise Juneau as our guest speaker** Her storied career in public service has focused on a central mission: combatting the tragedy of educational injustice, investing in opportunities for institutionally underserved peoples, and tearing down the pillars of systemic inequality. Denise's talk and FAQ will conclude the meeting.



[Please RSVP for the annual meeting here.](#)

## Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

Are you ready to be a catalyst for positive change in our community? We have several upcoming volunteer opportunities that allow you to become an integral part of our impactful programs.

### 1) [GUTS! Group Facilitator/ Mentor](#)

As a GUTS! Action Group Facilitator, you'll lead weekly sessions for girls and gender-diverse youth in local schools, fostering a safe space for discussions on real issues, and guide group members to discover their strengths and develop leadership skills. The Spring 2024 session runs from February 12th to May 3rd. Bring your creativity, compassion, and dedication to make a lasting impact. [Apply to volunteer with GUTS and learn more here.](#)

## 2) [Youth Services at The Meadowlark](#)

Ignite joy and resilience in the lives of children who have faced homelessness or domestic violence. Training sessions begin February 26th, and will equip you with the skills to facilitate fun and inclusive activities, such as story time and arts and crafts, fostering a nurturing environment for children residing at The Meadowlark.

## 3) [Advocate for Survivors](#)

From answering the crisis line to assisting at our counseling center, your dedication can directly impact the lives of domestic and sexual violence survivors. Our in-depth training sessions begin February 26th and will provide you with the tools to support survivors on their journey to rebuilding their lives.

Make a positive impact – join YWCA Missoula's volunteer community today! Questions? [Email Katie](#) or call 406-543-6691.

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## Program Updates

### Secret Seconds 50% Off Sale: Feb 9 & 10



Score a great deal and support an even greater cause! Shop our Secret Seconds Thrift Stores 50% off sale! All clothing, shoes, and accessories are half off at both our Kensington & Broadway locations. Friday, February 9th and Saturday, February 10th only!

As always, each purchase helps fund YWCA Missoula programs, uplifting local families and survivors. Let's shop, save and make a difference together!

### Racial Justice Program: Introducing Affinity Spaces for YWCA Staff

The UM School of Social Work is partnering with us to hold racial affinity groups for YWCA staff, to provide a platform for open discussion and opportunity for connection among staff with shared identities. Establishing affinity spaces within the organization was one of the recommendations from the [anti-racism audit](#). The goal is to facilitate a supportive environment for learning and healing, and foster conversations and action toward dismantling institutional racism within the YWCA.

Learn more about the Racial Justice Program and find resources for further learning [here](#).

### Paws and Pages: Story Time at The Meadowlark



Thanks to our partnership with Missoula Interfaith Collaborative, Youth Services brings dedicated volunteers to facilitate weekly story hour with the children at The Meadowlark. Twice a month, story hour includes a special "Read With Me" program, where the kids have the opportunity to read to a therapy dog, supporting readers of all ages and abilities. This has become a highly popular and well-attended activity, fostering a love for reading in a warm and comforting setting.

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## Who We Are



### Mille Urbush, Pathways Advocate

Meet Mille, an advocate in our Pathways Program and a student at the University of Montana with a double major in Sociology and Psychology. With a background in the medical and direct service fields, Mille brings real-world understanding to her role at the YWCA. As a survivor of chronic homelessness and abuse, Mille is dedicated to helping others overcome similar challenges, and to pay forward the support that she and her family once received.

Beyond work and school, Mille enjoys spending time with friends and family, reading, listening to music, knitting, and cuddling with her pets.

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## Get Involved

### Donate Bed Sheets, Pillows, and Baby Monitors (and Other Wish List Items)

Our Family Housing Center is in need of **fitted twin and full-size sheets, pillows, and baby monitors**. 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 sheets and baby monitors) from our [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:

- Family Housing Center Advocate (part time)
- Planet Kids Visit Monitor (part time)
- Secret Seconds Store Clerk (part/full time)
- On-call Relief Staff (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

