

# ON A MISSION: AN UPDATE FOR YWCA SUPPORTERS



## Greetings and Gratitude



As we celebrate Women's History Month this March, I am reflecting on the journey of YWCA Missoula and strides made in the advancement of gender equity, as well as the work that still lies ahead.

Founded on April 5, 1911, nine years before women secured the right to vote, YWCA Missoula initially operated from a modest one-room office in downtown Missoula. The original purpose of the organization was to work with young women, empowering them to face life with resilience and determination.

In those early days, our services encompassed a wide range of support, from sheltering young women traveling through Missoula as many were first leaving their homes to find work, to providing financial and food assistance, to offering counseling and life skills classes. Over the years, our programs expanded, evolving to meet the changing needs of our community.

You've probably seen that the old YWCA office at 1130 West Broadway is nearly deconstructed. As we bid a nostalgic farewell to that old, odd building, a space steeped in memories and history, we look forward to continuing our vital work, along with you, from our new home at The Meadowlark. While YWCA Missoula's buildings, programs and people may change, our commitment to advancing gender equity remains steadfast.

Join us in honoring the passion, hard work, and foresight of the trailblazers of the past, as we take our place in the long line of fierce advocates for justice, forging ahead, building a more inclusive and equitable future for all.

In Possibility,  
Jen

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## What's New

### Women's Law Caucus Silent Auction - April 5th

Join us for the 25th annual silent auction fundraiser hosted by the Women's Law Caucus at the University of Montana! Expect handmade items, gift cards, experiences, and more at the auction. All proceeds go to our Pathways domestic and sexual violence program.

Join us on **April 5th, 6:00 P.M., in the Alexander Blewett School of Law atrium** for a lively party where you can view items in person, enjoy complimentary appetizers, and continue bidding. Let's come together for a good cause!

[View auction items here!](#) Online bidding starts April 1st.

### 2023 Impact Report

Learn more about our work together in FY 2023 and get a snapshot of our mission in action. As we

reflect on the last fiscal year, we're incredibly thankful to the generous support of our donors, volunteers, and community partners, and the dedication of our amazing staff!

[Read the report here.](#)

## YWCA + MIC License Plates Now Available!

Get your YWCA Missoula + MIC Family Housing Center license plate now! Your purchase supports unhoused families in our community, like the 303 families and 575 children who received shelter and services last year.



With a simple, starry mountain design, this plate represents your investment in families, children, and community, affirming that everyone deserves a safe home. Purchase the plate at your county treasurers office (located inside the courthouse at 200 W. Broadway for Missoula residents).

[Learn more here.](#)

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## Program Updates

### Grants Boost YWCA Housing Programs

We're proud to announce two recent grants supporting our housing programs. Thanks to a \$91,136 grant from the Montana Department of Commerce, we'll enhance accessibility and safety in the shelters at The Meadowlark through ADA door assist buttons and additional security features. Plus, matching funds from the Cross Charitable Foundation, the Sample Foundation, and MDU Resource Charitable Giving Foundation effectively double this grant.

Additionally, [we've been awarded a \\$359,418 grant from HUD](#) in partnership with the Montana Continuum of Care Coalition for our Rapid Rehousing Program, aiding families and survivors of domestic violence in securing permanent housing solutions. Together, we're making strides towards ensuring safe housing for all.

### Racial Justice Program

Beginning last month, YWCA Missoula is holding monthly comprehensive racial justice training sessions for all staff members. The training encompasses discussions on the origins and effects of systemic oppression, white supremacist culture, and the process of decolonization. We have also recently reinstated our internal racial justice task force, comprised of representatives from each YWCA program and department, to advance racial justice initiatives across the agency. These initiatives are part of our commitment to ongoing training and internal anti-racism work as an organization.

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

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## Who We Are



### Patty Murphy, Director of Programs

In celebration of Women's History Month, let's spotlight Patty Murphy, a member of the YWCA Missoula team for an impressive 25 years! Patty has held various roles within the organization, from managing the transitional and emergency housing programs at Secret Seconds to overseeing the domestic violence shelter to volunteering at Secret Seconds to overseeing the transitional and emergency housing programs. Now, as the Director of Programs, Patty oversees a number of YWCA services and programs, while also fostering community partnerships and professional development for staff.

Patty's commitment to the YWCA's mission runs deep and is informed by her own experience with interpersonal violence. She firmly believes in the transformative potential of our services, which prioritize survivor empowerment and healing. Over the years, Patty has witnessed countless success stories, reinforcing her dedication to this work.

In her free time, enjoys Patty outdoor activities like hiking, biking, and paddleboarding. Recently, she's embraced pickleball, relishing the fun despite her beginner status. Patty, your enthusiasm and dedication

are truly appreciated—thank you for all you do!

## 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!

### Volunteer with a Friend (or Two)!

We're calling on a group or couple of volunteers to prepare a comforting meal for survivors attending our support groups (and the compassionate clinical interns who lead groups) the **first Tuesday of the every month at 5:30 PM**.

Your homemade meal can make a huge difference in the lives of those seeking healing and community. Whether you're a culinary wizard or just love cooking with heart, your contribution matters.

[Email Katie](#) to learn more!

### Employment Opportunities

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

- Planet Kids Visit Monitor (part time)
- Secret Seconds Store Clerk (part/full time)
- Family Housing Center Shelter Coordinator (full time)
- Family Housing Center Overnight Coordinator (full time)
- Finance Clerk/ Billing Specialist (full 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

