



EMPOWER ENGAGE

An update for YWCA Missoula supporters



Dear Friend,

In the past three years since The Meadowlark opened, we've grown and learned as an organization. Despite significant challenges, we remain steadfast in providing trauma-informed, essential services to our community. The rising number of children we serve underscores the urgency of our work.

Last year alone, 277 children, ranging from infants to teens, found shelter and support at The Meadowlark. These young individuals, having experienced homelessness or domestic violence, carry with them complex emotional and psychological needs. We have both a collective responsibility, and a unique opportunity, to provide the support and care they deserve that can make a difference for a lifetime.

Through support groups, therapeutic play activities, and seasonal camps, we strive to create an environment where children can heal, grow, and thrive. Our dedicated Youth Advocates play a vital role in building relationships, connecting them with resources, and fostering a sense of stability during a time that is filled with transition and uncertainty.

Yet, there is so much more needed. We are working to expand our clinical services to provide more comprehensive mental and behavioral health care onsite, addressing a critical gap for kids who need it the most.

I invite you to join us as we work to better support and resource children and their families and pave the way for brighter futures. [Learn more here about how you can help](#). Together, we can create a community where every child feels safe, valued, and supported.

In Possibility,
Jen

New & Noteworthy

Missoula Gives Recap

Thank you to everyone who made a gift last week for Missoula Gives! Together we raised over \$6,000 for our Youth Services, which support and empower children and families who have experienced homelessness and/or domestic violence. We're so grateful for the generosity of this community. We are continuing to raise funds for Youth Services through the end of the month and our goal is to reach \$15,000. Please spread the word and [donate here](#)!



Save the Date: Supporter Appreciation Night, June 18th

All donors, volunteers and friends of YWCA Missoula are invited to join us for our annual Supporter Appreciation Night on **Tuesday, June 18th at Ten Spoon Winery** . More details and invite to come!

Supporter Spotlight

Many thanks to 8th grade students Kriley Mackay, Alina DeCesare, and Talulah Kroschel from Missoula International School, who chose to support YWCA Missoula for their 2024 Community Project! Their donation of hygiene items for our Meadowlark residents means so much. Thank you for making our community a better place.



Program Updates

GUTS! Summer Camp Registration Open

Join the adventure! There are still a few spots left in our GUTS! summer camps for girls, non-binary, transgender, two-spirit, and gender-diverse youth. GUTS! camps promise fun outdoor experiences, from biking to rafting, gardening to hiking, and meaningful connections.

Camp dates:

- June 24-28: incoming 5th & 6th graders
- July 8-12: incoming 5th & 6th graders
- August 5-9: incoming 7th & 8th graders



[Learn more and register](#)

By the Numbers

A snapshot of our services at The Meadowlark...



The Meadowlark

by the numbers

77 kids, 52 adults and 2 pets
stayed here last night

178 beds
nearly all are currently occupied

24-hour staffing
to support our residents in the domestic
violence shelter and family housing center



*picture not Trinity

Youth Services Impact: Trinity's Story

Trinity, an eight-year-old resident of The Meadowlark, initially kept mostly to herself. Even with other kids around and group activities, she preferred solitude. The Youth Advocates respected her space, slowly building trust. Over the course of several weeks, Trinity opened up about her past experiences of bullying and violence. With the support of the Youth Advocates, she started to come out of her shell, find her voice, and

make friends. Trinity was so comfortable at The Meadowlark that as her family prepared to move out and into their own apartment, she actually became nervous. But she was able to express this to a Youth Advocate and find reassurance. Trinity's journey, supported by understanding and patience, shows the resilience of kids in our services and the impact that positive mentoring relationships and trauma-informed programming can have.

[Learn more about Youth Services](#)

Get Involved

Donate Baby Wipes and Pots & Pans

Our programs are currently in need of baby wipes and *new or gently used* pots and pans. You can order these items from our Amazon wish list and have them shipped to us directly- just select YWCA Missoula shipping address at checkout! Donations can also be dropped off at The Meadowlark front desk, 1800 S. 3rd St. W., Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm.

[View Wish List](#)

Employment Opportunities

Join our team and make a difference in the community! We're currently hiring for the following positions:

- Racial Justice Equity Program Manager
- Planet Kids Visit Monitor
- Family Housing Center Advocate
- Volunteer Program Manager
- Housing Stabilization Case Manager
- Facilities Technician

[Learn more and apply](#)



YWCA Missoula | 1800 S 3rd St W, Missoula, MT 59801 Crisis line: (406) 542-1944

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