



A Letter from Jen Euell, Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Happy Women's History Month! For over a century, YWCA Missoula has been a force for equity, justice, and safety. Since our founding in 1911, women have led the way—creating safe spaces for survivors, breaking down barriers to economic security, and driving systemic change.

This month, we also honor Dr. Dorothy Height, a civil rights trailblazer whose birthday falls on March 24. As the first Director of Racial Justice for the national YWCA, she fought tirelessly for racial and gender equity. Her legacy continues to inspire our work today.

While we celebrate progress, we know the fight for justice isn't over. At YWCA Missoula, we remain committed to strengthening support for survivors, empowering young leaders through GUTS!, and addressing family homelessness.

That's why we're excited to announce the purchase of the Marchie's Nursery property, a 2.3-acre site next to The Meadowlark. This acquisition presents an opportunity to explore expanding our services, growing our Secret Seconds stores, and partnering with others to increase access to housing options. We are in the very early planning stages and look forward to working with our community to maximize the impact.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Together, we continue the work of those who came before us, building a future where all women and families can thrive.

In Possibility,

JenP.S. - We're considering short term leasing options for the new property during this early planning phase... so if you know someone looking for space, send them my way!

New & Noteworthy

Smart Giving During Tax Season

Tax season is here, and if you find yourself facing a tax bill, did you know there's a way to reduce your taxable income while supporting YWCA Missoula? **Tax-smart giving, such as a gift of stock, IRA gifts, Donor-Advised Funds**, and even **crypto gifts**, can provide significant savings compared to cash gifts. We've worked hard to make these giving options simple and easy to use—many of them can be done in just 5 minutes!

Learn more about supporting YWCA Missoula's work at less of a cost to you.

Save the Date: Women's Law Caucus Silent Auction is April 11

Join us for the 26th annual silent auction fundraiser hosted by the Women's Law Caucus at the University of Montana! Bid on handmade items, gift cards, experiences, and more at the auction. Plus, free appetizers. All proceeds go to our Pathways domestic and sexual violence program.

WHEN: Friday, April 11th, 6-8 PM

WHERE: Alexander Blewett School of Law on UM campus

See you there! Bring your friends and family!

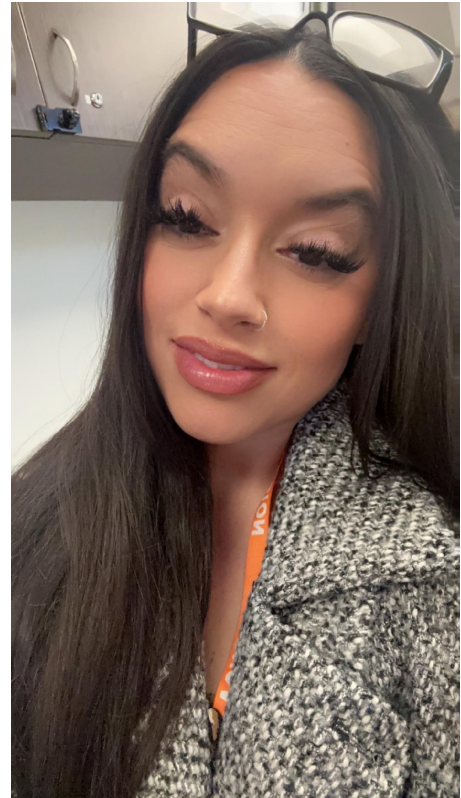
Staff Spotlight

Laci Peterson, Administrative Assistant

If you've walked through the doors of The Meadowlark, chances are you've been greeted by Laci Peterson, our incredible Administrative Assistant. With 15 years of experience as a CNA, working in hospice, assisted living, and cancer care, Laci brings deep compassion and dedication to her role. Before joining YWCA Missoula, she worked in billing and data entry, skills she now uses to help keep our operations running smoothly.

Laci's connection to the YWCA's mission is personal—as a single mother and a survivor of domestic violence and homelessness, she understands the strength it takes to rebuild. Her experiences fuel her passion for supporting others who are facing similar struggles.

Outside of work, Laci is passionate about fitness, health, and wellness—she has been a personal trainer and plans to compete in bodybuilding shows in the future! She loves spending time with her kids and enjoying the outdoors, especially at the park. We're grateful to have Laci on our team, bringing warmth, resilience, and dedication to the YWCA community.



Program Updates

GUTS Summer Camp Registration is Open!

It's time to gear up for another season of GUTS! Summer Adventure Camps! These camps are all about outdoor fun, community connection, and building confidence for girls and gender-diverse youth.

This year's lineup:

- Two local day camps (Monday-Friday, 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM) where

participants bike to exciting destinations like Freecycle, Garden City Harvest, and Home Resource.

- Two adventure camps with an overnight option (Thursday-Friday) for those ready to take their experience to the next level!

Camp dates:

- June 23-27: Incoming 5th & 6th graders
- July 7-11: Incoming 5th & 6th graders (Overnight Option!)
- July 21-25: Incoming 7th - 9th graders (Overnight Option!)
- August 4-8: Incoming 7th - 9th graders



*Age ranges are flexible depending on registration demand—if you have questions, just ask!

Whether it's biking around Missoula, exploring the river, or camping under the stars, GUTS! camps are an incredible opportunity for youth to build confidence, leadership skills, and lifelong friendships. Spots fill fast—**sign up today!**

Learn more about GUTS! camp. Contact Mia at mmckinney@ywcaofmissoula.org with questions.

Declutter for a Cause – Donate Housewares to Secret Seconds!

Got extra furniture, kitchenware, art, holiday decorations, or other home goods taking up space? Give them a second life by donating to Secret Seconds Thrift Stores! Your gently used housewares help fund all YWCA Missoula programs. In fact, the stores are a critical funding source and generate about 30% of the organization's revenue.

Drop off your donations at either Secret Seconds location during business hours (Tuesday-Saturday, 10am- 6 pm). Thank you for turning your clutter into community impact!



Find Your "Y"

Each month, YWCA Missoula highlights events, debunks myths, explores important topics, and celebrates diverse cultures and identities.

Racial Justice Challenge Begins March 31

Racial justice work is ongoing, and The YWCA Racial Justice Challenge is a powerful way to deepen your understanding and commitment. Join us—and YWCA chapters across the country—for this **four-week challenge** designed to help build effective social justice habits and encourage meaningful action.

Each day participants will engage with articles, podcasts, and reflection activities through the Challenge app and website. Together, we'll explore key topics like misinformation and racial justice, interpersonal racism, barriers to the American Dream, and the racialization of crime—all with the goal of fostering reflection, social responsibility, and collective action.

This is a chance to learn, grow, and take concrete steps toward dismantling racism in our communities. Join us! [Learn more here.](#)

Building Workplaces of Belonging Workshops

YWCA Missoula is excited to announce our new **workshops** designed to help businesses and organizations build inclusive and productive workplaces. From understanding microaggressions to exploring the intersection of trauma-informed care and cultural competency, our experienced facilitators guide participants through knowledge-building, reflection, and actionable strategies to create lasting change.

Ready to transform your workplace culture? [Learn more about our workshops](#) and customize a training for your team! [Email Chris Young-Greer](#) with questions.

Get Involved

Donate Essential Items to Support Survivors

When survivors arrive at our domestic violence shelter, they often have little more than the clothes they're wearing. We're collecting ***new or gently used luggage and suitcases*** to help them carry their belongings when relocating for safety or traveling to stay with family.

We're also in need of **toiletry items, including toothpaste, toothbrushes, hairbrushes, and body wash**, to ensure survivors have the basic necessities to care for themselves.

Donations can be dropped off at The Meadowlark during business hours or ordered directly from our [Amazon Wish List](#). Every donation provides comfort, dignity, and support to someone starting over. Thank you for making a difference!

Vote for YWCA Missoula on Target Circle before March 31!

There are just a couple weeks left to vote for YWCA Missoula to receive funds in Target Circle this quarter!

Here's how:

Step 1: Choose 'My Target' in the Target app or 'Account' on [Target.com](#)

Step 2: Tap 'Cast votes'

Step 3: Find YWCA Missoula and vote

*To vote, you need a free Target Circle membership. Purchases made in-store or online before March 31 will earn votes.



Get a Family Housing Center License Plate

Make a difference in our community by purchasing a YWCA Missoula + MIC Family Housing Center license plate. With its simple, starry mountain design, the plate represents your commitment to investing in families and children and helps

fund essential services and support to unhoused families at The Meadowlark.

[Click here to learn how to get your plate](#)

Employment Opportunities

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

- Youth Services Program Manager
- Pathways Advocate
- Housing Stabilization Case Manager
- Family Housing Center Overnight Advocate

[Learn more and apply](#)



YWCA Missoula | 1800 S 3rd St W | Missoula, MT 59801 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Our Privacy Policy](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!