



A Letter from Jen Euell, Executive Director

Dear Friends,

The **YWCA Racial Justice Challenge** is here, and I'd love for you to join us! This free, online challenge runs all month long, and you can jump in anytime. It's designed to help us all learn more about racism—how it shows up in everyday life, and what we can do about it—through short daily readings, videos, and reflection prompts.

This year, the challenge focuses on four important topics: the Age of Misinformation, Interpersonal Racism, the American Dream, and the Racialization of Crime. These aren't just national issues—they show up right here in Missoula, in our conversations, neighborhoods, schools, and systems. Understanding them is a key step toward building a more inclusive, respectful community.

At YWCA Missoula, we know that we can't truly support survivors or families experiencing houselessness without also working to eliminate racism. Families of color in our programs face even steeper challenges—more barriers to jobs, housing, and safety. The work to break down these barriers starts with awareness, reflection, and a willingness to grow—together.

So whether you've done the challenge before or are brand new to it, I hope you'll join us this month. Let's keep learning and pushing for change—right here in our community.

In Possibility,
Jen

New & Noteworthy

Missoula Gives is Almost Here— Thanks to Missoula Paddleheads, Your Donation to YWCA Will be Doubled!



We're gearing up for **Missoula Gives**, and we wanted to let you in on some exciting news: the **Missoula Paddleheads are generously matching donations** to YWCA Missoula *dollar for dollar*, up to \$10,000!

That means every gift — big or small — will have double the impact for kids and families in our community. We're raising funds for our Youth Services, and your support helps **provide shelter, healing, and a sense of normalcy for children who have experienced homelessness and domestic violence.**

Mark your calendar for **May 2–3** and get ready to make a difference that matters.

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.](#)

Staff Spotlight

Halea Bowman, Pathways Advocate

Halea Bowman brings a background in special education, as well as a commitment to empowerment, to her work as a Pathways Advocate. She's passionate about supporting survivors of domestic violence and helping them move toward their goals—whether that's navigating big life changes or simply getting through the day. Halea values the meaningful connections she's able to make with clients and coworkers alike, and she's proud to be part of a team that shares her belief in the YWCA's mission.

Originally from the Dallas/Fort Worth area, Halea made the move to Montana nearly a year ago to join family on a small homestead and hobby farm in Arlee. Right now, she and her two kids (ages 9 and 5) are loving the slower pace and fresh air of country living—alongside their flock of chickens and ducks. Future plans? Maybe some sheep and goats. For now, they're soaking up life in their new community and enjoying all that Western Montana has to offer.



Program Updates

GUTS! Summer Camp – Register Now!

Summer is almost here, and GUTS! Adventure Camps are filling fast! These confidence-building camps for girls and gender-diverse youth offer biking, outdoor adventures, and hands-on learning at local organizations like Freecycles and Garden City Harvest.

[Learn more.](#)



Camps run Monday-Friday, 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM.

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

A sliding fee scale and scholarships are available—no one is turned away for financial reasons!

Spots are limited—**sign up today!**

Questions? Contact Mia at mmckinney@ywcaofmissoula.org.



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 our 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.

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 Baby Items

Our shelters are currently home to many babies and toddlers, and we're running low on essential supplies. **We especially need infant formula and larger-sized diapers (4-6)** to support families in crisis.

If you're able to help, donations can be dropped off at The Meadowlark front desk or ordered through our **Amazon Wish List** for direct delivery. Your generosity ensures that every child in

our care has the essentials they need.

Drop-off location: The Meadowlark, 1800 S 3rd St W. Drop-off hours: Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm

[View Amazon Wish List](#)

Thank you for supporting families on their journey to safety and stability!



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:

- Pathways Advocate
- Family Housing Center Advocate
- Secret Seconds Store Clerk
- Volunteer Program Manager

[Learn more and apply](#)



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