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## A Letter from Jen Euell, Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Since stepping into the role of executive director more than two years ago, one question has stayed close to my heart: What does it take to create a community where everyone truly feels like they belong?

Belonging isn't just about being welcomed—it's about being celebrated. It's about knowing you're safe to show up fully as yourself, to speak your truth...and be heard, to be met with dignity and care, and to be seen and appreciated for all that you bring to the table. At YWCA Missoula, that's the kind of space we strive to create every day—for survivors, for families, for our staff and volunteers, and for our partners and the wider community.

Creating belonging takes humility, commitment and courage. It means honestly examining who our services and spaces are built for, who is centered in our work, and where we still have room to grow. It means listening hard and being open to feedback, holding space for healing, honoring different lived experiences, and showing up in solidarity and joy.

This month, we're putting that into practice in many ways. We'll be at the **Missoula Pride** Block Party on June 21—stop by our table and say hello! We're also excited to be creating two new sacred spaces at The Meadowlark, inspired by feedback from Indigenous participants and community partners, for residents to use for spiritual and cultural practices. And on June 19, we encourage everyone to **join us at the Juneteenth celebration** hosted by Montana Black Collective—Missoula and the Historical Museum at Fort Missoula. It's a day of culture, connection, and a powerful reminder of the ongoing fight for equity.

Here's to the long road to justice ahead, and all of the challenge and reward along the way. Thank you for walking this path with us!

In Possibility,  
Jen

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## New & Noteworthy

### New Spaces for Spiritual and Cultural Practice at The Meadowlark

We're grateful to share that construction is underway on two new sacred structures for residents at the Meadowlark. These standalone spaces will offer private, dedicated areas for Indigenous spiritual and cultural practices—such as smudging, healing, and reflection—as well as space for other

residents to engage in spiritual or cultural traditions.

These standalone structures were inspired by feedback from Indigenous residents and community partners who shared how important it is to have space for cultural connection during times of transition and healing.

Deep thanks to the Pride Foundation for funding this project, and to Windermere Real Estate, with support from First Security Bank, for assembling one of the structures on their annual service day.



## YWCA Book Club Launches This Month

Join us for the launch of YWCA Missoula's new monthly book club, focused on racial and social justice themes that align with our mission. We'll meet via Zoom on the 4th Wednesday of each month from 6–7 p.m. (No meeting in August).

Our first gathering is **Wednesday, June 25**, and we'll be discussing ***Cousins: Connected Through Slavery*** by Betty Kilby Baldwin and Phoebe Kilby—a powerful memoir about race, family, and reconciliation. Huge thanks to **Fact and Fiction Books** for offering this title for 20% off!

[Click here to register](#) and receive the Zoom link. Questions? [Email Chris Young-Greer](#).

## YWConnects is Back!

After a hiatus, we're excited to resume our monthly YWConnects sessions—casual, conversational gatherings where you can learn more about YWCA Missoula's work and how to get involved.

**Join us for coffee on the second Tuesday of each month** at The Meadowlark, where you'll hear directly from program staff about the day-to-day realities of serving families, survivors, and individuals in crisis. These informal sessions are a great way to connect, ask questions, and see how our mission comes to life.

Whether you're curious about our programs, considering volunteering, or just want to better understand the challenges our community faces, we'd love to have you join us. Bring a friend or a small group!

[Click here to sign up for a visit](#)

Questions? Contact Diane at (406) 543-6691 or [dadami@ywcaofmissoula.org](mailto:dadami@ywcaofmissoula.org).

## YWCA Night at the PaddleHeads Game- July 15

Take me out to the ballgame—and support YWCA Missoula while you're at it! Join us for PaddleHeads Community Tuesday on July 15 for a fun-filled evening celebrating local nonprofits.

Thanks to a match from The PaddleHeads, **100% of every ticket purchased through the special YWCA link will go directly toward our programs** supporting survivors of domestic violence, families experiencing homelessness, and youth in crisis.

Come enjoy a night at the ballpark, learn more about our mission, and help us knock this fundraiser out of the park.

[Get your tickets here](#).

## Staff Spotlight

### Spencer Sucha, Housing Stabilization Case Manager

Spencer brings a diverse and hands-on background to his role as Housing Stabilization Case Manager. Before stepping into case management, he worked as an overnight advocate in both our Pathways Domestic Violence Shelter and the Family Housing Center. His experience also includes trail work, carpentry, CSA farming, and a foundation in sociology—all of which inform his grounded, empathetic approach to supporting families.

Spencer is deeply connected to the mission of the YWCA. "The families I work with often have difficult stories, and it's really fulfilling to assist them as they move toward a more secure future," he says. "I'm constantly uplifted by residents' resilience and generosity. This work continues to deepen my understanding of what it means to be of service to others."

Outside of work, Spencer finds joy in creativity and the outdoors. He writes songs in his free time and plays bass for a local string band. You might also find him on the hockey rink or hiking the trails with his pup.



## Program Updates



### Summer Sale at Secret Seconds: July 18–19!

Mark your calendars—our biggest Summer Sale of the season is happening July 18 and 19 at both Secret Seconds Thrift Store locations! For two days only, enjoy 50% off all clothing, shoes, and accessories.

It's the perfect time to stock up on summer staples, refresh your wardrobe, or treasure hunt for one-of-a-kind finds—all while supporting a great cause. Proceeds from every purchase directly

fund YWCA Missoula's programs, including our domestic violence shelter, housing support, and crisis services.

Whether you're a seasoned thrifter or just love a great deal, don't miss this chance to shop with purpose.

**Shop both store locations: 920 Kensington and 1136 W. Broadway.** Open Tuesday-Saturday, 10 AM- 6PM.

find your "Y"  
FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE, ANTI-RACISM,  
CULTURAL AWARENESS

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

## Juneteenth Community Celebration

Montana Black Collective—Missoula and the Historical Museum at Fort Missoula are hosting the annual Juneteenth Celebration! Join us on **Thursday June 19, from 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM** at the Fort Missoula Pavilion for a vibrant community gathering honoring Freedom Day—the historic day that commemorates the emancipation of enslaved African Americans.

This celebration is part of a nationwide tradition recognizing the enduring fight for Black freedom, culture, and community. All are welcome to attend and take part in this powerful and joyful event.

Enjoy music, speakers, connection, and free food available while supplies last. Kids are welcome. Come be part of this day of remembrance, celebration, and the ongoing fight for equity.



## Get Involved

### Help Us Re-stock Essential Hygiene Items

We're currently in need of **hygiene items** (body wash, shampoo, deodorant) to support families staying at The Meadowlark.

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 and parent 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](#)



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