



A Letter from Jen Euell, Executive Director

Dear Friends,

This summer, we're reminded daily that healing, safety, and growth are community efforts. From GUTS! campers building confidence on the river, to our staff and partners navigating complex crisis response in emergency rooms, it's clear: **none of this happens alone.**

Whether coordinating a trauma-informed safety plan for a survivor, or helping a youth feel seen and supported, the strength of our partnerships makes the difference.

But we're all doing this work in a climate of uncertainty. Housing remains out of reach for many families, and local leaders are working hard to move the needle with limited resources. At the same time, many of the programs our participants rely on—like SNAP, Medicaid, and rental assistance—are seeing cuts. These losses are deeply felt by the people we serve, especially those already facing systemic barriers. The gaps in our safety net are widening, and more of our neighbors are falling through.

And yet, **what we continue to see in Missoula is care in action.** We see it in the way our community rallies around a survivor, in the staff who answer late-night crisis calls, and in the volunteers who show up for youth week after week. We see it in your continued support.

Together we will continue to provide a safe haven, a second chance, and the possibility of a brighter future to our neighbors. Thank you for believing in this work—and for being part of the village it takes to make it happen.

In Possibility,
Jen

New & Noteworthy

Join us Tuesday at the PaddleHeads Game

Take me out to the ballgame—and support YWCA Missoula while you're at it! Join us for PaddleHeads Community Night on **Tuesday, 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.](#)

Grab your friends, family, and coworkers—we'd love to see you in the stands cheering with us!

Get 50% Off at Secret Seconds: July 18 & 19



Don't miss our Secret Seconds Thrift Stores half off sale, Friday and Saturday, July 18th and 19th, only! Get **50% off all clothing, shoes, and accessories.**

As always, all purchases directly support local YWCA Missoula programs. Revenue from our Secret Seconds stores are a critical funding source, generating about one-third of the organization's revenue!

Shop with purpose! Find Secret Seconds at **920 Kensington and 1136 W. Broadway**. Open Tuesday- Saturday, 10AM- 6 PM.

Visit us at The Meadowlark for *YWConnects*

Join us for coffee and treats 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 casual *YWConnects* sessions are a great way to learn about our programs, 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.

Staff Spotlight

Jennifer Thistle, Clinical Coordinator

We're pleased to introduce Jennifer Thistle, who recently transitioned into the role of Clinical Coordinator after completing the internship for her Master's of Clinical Mental Health Counseling at YWCA Missoula. Jen brings compassion and a strong grounding in trauma-informed care to her work, supporting our newest cohort of clinical interns and providing mental health services to residents at The Meadowlark.

YWCA Missoula's Clinical Program provides free counseling and support to adult survivors of domestic and sexual violence and their children. Services include individual therapy, support groups, and walk-in counseling, all delivered by graduate-level interns under the supervision of a licensed therapist.



Jen has a background in mental health counseling and advocacy, with experience supporting individuals and families facing housing instability, domestic violence, and other systemic barriers. She's passionate about creating spaces where people feel safe, heard, and supported. Her values align closely with the YWCA's mission of safety, equity, and empowerment for all—something she says drew her to this work and continues to inspire her every day.

Outside of work, Jen enjoys reading, dancing, live music, and long walks with her dog. In the warmer months, she's likely to be found floating the river or enjoying good food with friends. We're grateful for the care and leadership she brings to our team.

Program Updates

GUTS! Summer Adventures are in Full Swing



GUTS! is YWCA Missoula's youth leadership program that empowers girls, nonbinary, and gender-diverse youth through outdoor adventure, self-reflection, and community building.

This summer, GUTS! campers have been rafting, gardening, fly fishing, participating in equine experiential learning workshops, and even heading out on an overnight yurt camping adventure.

These experiences build confidence, leadership, and lasting connections—with nature, peers, and themselves. We're so proud of these youth for embracing challenge, supporting each other, and growing stronger every day!

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

Find Your "Y"

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

July Book Club Pick: *Subtle Acts of Exclusion*

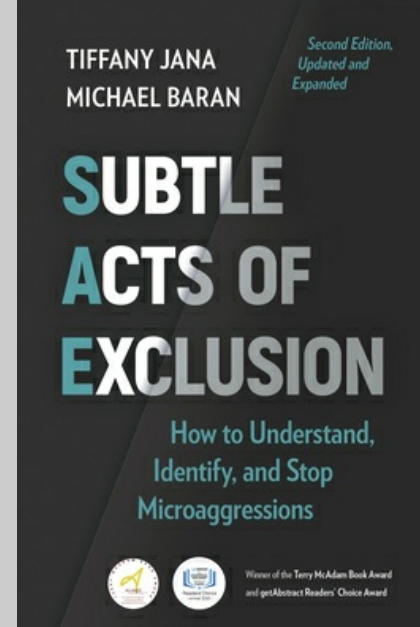
Join YWCA Missoula's Racial Justice Book Club on **Tuesday, July 23, from 6–7 PM** on Zoom as we discuss *Subtle Acts of Exclusion: How to Understand, Identify, and Stop Microaggressions* by Tiffany Jana and Michael Baran.

This book offers a thoughtful, practical, and nonjudgmental guide to recognizing and addressing microaggressions—what the authors call subtle acts of exclusion (SAEs). Using real-life examples, sample scripts, and action plans, the book helps readers respond effectively when exclusion happens and take meaningful steps to foster inclusion and belonging in the workplace and beyond.

Pick up a copy at **Fact & Fiction** for 20% off!

[Sign up here to receive the Zoom link.](#)

All are welcome—come ready to learn, reflect, and engage in community.



Crisis Response Rooted in Community Collaboration

At YWCA Missoula, supporting survivors of sexual violence means being ready to respond—anytime, day or night. Through our **Sexual Assault Response Program**, we offer 24/7 hospital advocacy, trauma-informed counseling, and safety planning. But what truly helps power this work is the trust and coordination we've built with local partners—law enforcement, hospital staff, mobile crisis teams, and more.

This collaboration shows up in critical moments. Like when a multidisciplinary team came together to rethink our response for a survivor with complex needs, shifting away from repeated forensic exams to a plan centered on emotional care. Or when a survivor of trafficking arrived in Missoula with her children and pets—and thanks to quick communication between agencies, we identified a technical issue with our crisis line and made sure she was safely housed that same night.

Behind every crisis response is a network of people working together with care and urgency. These partnerships make it possible to meet survivors with the dignity, flexibility, and compassion they deserve.

New Hours for Planet Kids

Planet Kids is YWCA Missoula's **supervised visitation and safe exchange center**, offering a neutral, welcoming space where children can spend time with a parent in situations involving family separation, custody transitions, or court-ordered supervision following domestic violence. With the support of trained staff, every visit is designed to be safe, calm, and conflict-free—so kids can focus on simply being kids.

Planet Kids is currently the only supervised visitation program in Missoula, and one of just a few in the entire state. Planet Kids provides all services free of charge, helping ensure that all families—regardless of income—have access to safe, trauma-informed services during difficult transitions.

New Planet Kids Hours:

Sunday: 11:45 AM – 6:15 PM

Monday: CLOSED

Tuesday: 5:15 PM – 8:45 PM

Wednesday: 3:45 PM – 7:15 PM
Thursday: 5:15 PM – 8:45 PM
Friday: 3:45 PM – 7:15 PM
Saturday: CLOSED

Questions? Contact us at our *new email address*: planetkids@ywcaofmissoula.org.

Get Involved

Donate Wish List Items to Families at The Meadowlark

The residents in our shelters are currently in need of **hygiene items** (body wash, shampoo, deodorant), **infant formula**, **baby wipes**, and **larger diapers** (size 4-6).

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](#)

Employment Opportunities

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

- Family Housing Center Advocate
- Pathways Advocate

[Click here for job descriptions and instructions on how to apply.](#)





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