



A Letter from Jen Euell, Executive Director

Dear Friends,

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month—a time to recognize the strength and resilience of survivors, honor the work of advocates, and renew our commitment to ending violence in our community.

Last year, our Pathways Domestic Violence Program served more than 1,300 survivors through our crisis line, walk-in counseling, support groups, and emergency shelter. Behind each number is a person whose life has been impacted by abuse—and each story reminds us why this work matters.

While abusers are always responsible for their choices, we know that structural and environmental factors—like early exposure to unhealthy relationships—can increase the likelihood of violence. By providing positive role models and engaging in youth education, we can help prevent abuse before it starts. Programs like GUTS!, which we offer in local schools, and our youth services at the Meadowlark, teach healthy relationships and boundaries, build confidence, and equip young people with the skills to break cycles of violence.

Ending domestic violence takes all of us. It's not just a private issue—it's a community one. Through strong partnerships across sectors, we can address root causes, support survivors more effectively, and expand prevention and response efforts for lasting change.

One of the simplest—and most powerful—ways you can help is by starting a conversation about domestic violence with your loved ones. Breaking the silence around this issue and bringing it into the bright light of day is work for all of us. You can also explore some of our [**frequently asked questions about domestic and sexual violence here**](#).

Together, we can build a safer, stronger, and more supportive Missoula for everyone.

In Possibility,
Jen

New & Noteworthy

She Rises: Stephanie Myers Runs for YWCA Missoula

On Saturday, October 18th, local fitness trainer Steph Myers completed her inspiring She Rises Run, raising awareness and support for YWCA Missoula's work to help families and survivors find safety, stability, and new beginnings. So far,



more than 50 people have donated, contributing nearly \$4,000 toward her \$7,500 goal by the end of the month!

We're so grateful to Steph ([@steph_myers_fit](#)) for sharing her story and rallying our community to make a difference.

[Learn more and donate here](#) to help her reach her goal!

National Estate Planning Awareness Week (October 20–26)

This week is a reminder to plan ahead and reflect on the future you wish to create—for yourself, your loved ones, and your community. During National Estate Planning Awareness Week, we invite our supporters to take a simple step toward peace of mind by making a free estate plan in *just 20 minutes*. It's an easy way to ensure your values live on and your legacy continues to make a difference.

[Make your free plan today.](#)

Staff Spotlight

Lacy Fiore, Pathways Shelter Coordinator

Meet Lacy Fiore, Shelter Coordinator for YWCA Missoula's Pathways Domestic Violence Program. Every day, Lacy witnesses the strength and resilience of the survivors she supports. She says that sometimes the most important thing you can do for someone experiencing abuse is simply to hold space, listen without judgment, and remind them they are believed.

When she's not at the shelter, you'll find Lacy walking her dog, baking treats, or taking fun classes at the Lifelong Learning Center.

Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) to meet more amazing advocates this Domestic Violence Awareness Month!



Program Updates

Introducing the Secret Seconds Teen Advisory Board!

YWCA Missoula's GUTS! program is launching a new Secret Seconds Teen Advisory Board—and **we're looking for creative, motivated teens to join!** Members will help make our thrift stores more youth-friendly by sharing ideas on marketing, merchandising, and style trends.

It's a great opportunity for teens to build leadership and job skills, gain mentorship, and earn Secret Seconds vouchers to shop. This is open to teens **ages 14-18**. The advisory board will meet once a month.

If you know a teen who might be interested, encourage them to [apply for the Secret Seconds advisory board today!](#)

Save the Date: Secret Seconds 50% Off Sale!



Mark your calendars—Secret Seconds Thrift Stores are hosting a 50% Off Sale on **Thursday, November 14, and Friday, November 15!**

It's the perfect time to stock up on winter clothing, home goods, and unique finds—all while supporting YWCA Missoula's programs for families and survivors in our community..

Visit Secret Seconds at 920 Kensington & 1136 W. Broadway. Open Tuesday-Saturday, 10 AM-6PM.

Joyful Moments at Planet Kids

We're excited to share what's new at Planet Kids, YWCA's supervised visitation program!

A huge thank-you to the Kiwanis Club of Missoula for awarding a grant to support new outdoor play equipment for children ages 0–5. Their generosity helps create more safe, joyful spaces for little ones to play and connect.

We're also celebrating some powerful moments of reconnection—several parents in recovery from substance use disorders have recently begun visits with their children after time apart. Watching these families rebuild trust and bond in a supportive, child-focused space is at the heart of what Planet Kids is all about.



Want to help make playtime even better? Check out the “Kids” section of our [wish list](#) to find items like balance beams and water tables that bring joy to every visit. .

[Learn more about Planet Kids program.](#)

New Arrivals at the Family Housing Center

It's been a busy and joyful month at YWCA Missoula's Family Housing Center—two new babies were born, with two more expected later this month. Each birth is a reminder of the importance of providing a safe, stable place for young families during such a critical time.

Last year, nearly 200 children stayed with us at the Family Housing Center, and for many, the YWCA is their first home. We're proud to support these families as they grow, heal, and build a foundation for the future.

Find Your "Y"

Each month, YWCA Missoula highlights events,

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

*debunks myths, explores important topics, and
celebrates diverse cultures and identities.*

Support Our Sacred Spaces at The Meadowlark

Earlier this year, with community support, we completed two new sacred spaces at The Meadowlark—places for residents to engage in spiritual, cultural, and personal healing, such as smudging, meditation, and reflection.

Created in partnership with Indigenous residents and community members, these spaces are intended to honor cultural traditions and provide residents with a place to connect, reflect, and heal in ways meaningful to them

We're still in need of items to fully furnish these sacred spaces. Visit our wish list – Sacred Spaces section to help make these spaces welcoming, restorative, and affirming for all residents.

Want to donate items another way? **Contact our Director of Belonging, Chris Young-Greer.**

Your support helps us advance equity, honor traditions, and create spaces where every resident feels valued.



Get Involved

Visit us at The Meadowlark for *YWConnects* Tour

Join us for coffee 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 tour](#)

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

Employment Opportunities

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

- Pathways Advocate (2 positions)
- Rapid Rehousing Case Manager
- Secret Seconds Store Clerk
- Youth Advocate (2 positions)

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



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