



A Letter from Jen Euell, Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Families in our shelters are feeling the strain of recent delays and reductions in SNAP benefits. When food support is disrupted, it doesn't just mean fewer groceries and the anxiety of not having enough to eat—it means added stress for parents already juggling jobs, appointments, and the uncertainty that comes with living in temporary shelter. Our staff and volunteers are doing everything they can to bridge these gaps, but the need continues to grow as we head into the colder months and the holiday season.

This is why this year's **Giving Tuesday** (December 2nd) is so critical. Nights of shelter, warm meals, and safe spaces for children are the core of our work, and community support makes it possible for us to meet these immediate needs day after day. Thanks to a generous \$15,000 match, every Giving Tuesday gift will be doubled until the match is reached—meaning twice the impact for families seeking safety, stability, and a fresh start. We hope you'll help us spread the word.

Later in this newsletter, you'll find more ways to get involved, including specific food needs for our shelters. There are many needs right now, and many ways to help. But the heart of it remains the same: it takes all of us. Together, we can support our neighbors—especially when the systems meant to help them fall short. Your contributions, big or small, create stability, dignity, and hope for families rebuilding their lives.

In Possibility,
Jen

New & Noteworthy

YWCA Staff Recognized for Domestic Violence Advocacy

We're proud to share that two YWCA Missoula staff members were honored at this year's Missoula County Domestic Violence Awareness Awards.

Lacy Fiore, Pathways Shelter Coordinator, was named Social Services Advocate of the Year for her steadfast support of survivors and her work to create a welcoming, healing shelter environment.

Carol Roberts, Clinical Manager, received Mental Health Advocate of the Year for her compassionate leadership and



commitment to trauma-informed care.

Their dedication strengthens our community every day—please join us in congratulating Lacy and Carol on this well-deserved recognition.

Help Families Stay Fed

Our shelters are seeing a recent increase in food needs, due to the disruption to SNAP benefits and other resources. Here's how you can help:

- Prepare dinner for the Pathways domestic violence shelter—Fridays are most helpful. Email TWeaselhead@ywcaofmissoula.org to sign up.
- Donate long-lasting produce: bananas, apples, potatoes, carrots, onions, etc.
- Donate breakfast staples: oatmeal, sausage, bagels, cream cheese, peanut butter

Drop off food donations at the Meadowlark front desk during business hours. Please bring only non-expired items. Thank you!

Make the Season Special for YWCA Families

YWCA Missoula's Holiday Drive is in full swing, and we still need help to make the season bright for the families in our shelters. We have 20 children's wish lists left to fulfill. If you'd like to sponsor a child's list, please [email Tara Weaselhead-Running Crane](#).

We're also assembling holiday gift baskets for every family in shelter, filled with cozy treats to bring a little warmth and comfort. This is an easy way to contribute at any budget level—[sign up for a single item or several through our SignUpGenius link](#).

Many families tell us, even years after graduating from our programs, that the holidays at YWCA were a bright spot during an incredibly difficult time. We aim to make this season special, and community support makes that possible.

Welcome to Our New Volunteers



Seventeen new staff and volunteers have completed YWCA Missoula's advocate training, preparing them to provide trauma-informed crisis response for survivors in our community. Over the past several weeks, they have trained in safety planning, crisis intervention, harm reduction, and the systemic barriers that affect survivors' lives. Their dedication strengthens our capacity to offer compassionate, knowledgeable support every hour of the day. We are grateful to welcome them into this vital work.

Interested in volunteering? [Learn more and apply here](#).

Tara Weaselhead-Running Crane, Volunteer Program Manager

Tara Weaselhead-Running Crane recently joined YWCA Missoula as the Volunteer Program Manager. She supports all YWCA programs by coordinating volunteer recruitment, training, and retention, and she also helps evaluate volunteer practices to ensure they meet the needs of the organization and the community.



She is a proud Niitsitapi/Piikani (Blackfeet), Karuk, and Cree woman and a University of Montana alum with degrees in Psychology and Communication Sciences and Disorders. Before joining the YWCA, she worked in prevention at All Nations Health Center and as a prevention science researcher with the University of Washington. She also brings experience in law enforcement and social services.

Outside of work, she enjoys crafting, cooking, reading, and spending time with her son and partner. She's excited to be part of the team and looks forward to connecting with all our volunteers!

Program Updates

Secret Seconds 50% Off Sale: Nov 14 & 15



Mark your calendars—Secret Seconds Thrift Stores are hosting a 50% Off Sale this **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.

Supporting Families Through Community Partnerships

We're grateful to **The Parenting Place** for offering on-site Nurturing Parenting classes to residents of The Meadowlark. This 12-week program is tailored to meet families where they are—whether parenting a young child, navigating the teen years, or stepping into the role of caregiver as a grandparent.

These classes provide practical tools, helpful strategies, and a welcoming space for families to grow alongside others on a similar journey. Parents also receive one-one-one training from a parent educator. Programs like this highlight the power of community partnerships in supporting families in every area of life.

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.

Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day: Nov 14

Start your morning with purpose on **Friday, November 14, from 7:00-7:45 a.m. at AAA, 1200 S Reserve St., Suite B.** Enjoy a short program, hot chocolate, and treats before walking together with local students to one of the nearby schools. And don't forget to wear purple to show your support!

This event is part of **Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day**, which honors Ruby Bridges, who at just six years old bravely became one of the first Black students to integrate an all-white elementary school in New Orleans in 1960. Her daily walk to school—surrounded by federal marshals and facing intense hostility—became a powerful symbol of courage, resilience, and the ongoing fight for civil rights.

Hosted by the Ruby Bridges Walk to School Volunteer Committee.



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:

- Rapid Rehousing Case Manager
- Secret Seconds Store Clerk

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



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