



A Letter from Jen Euell, Executive Director

Dear Friends,

As we approach the end of 2025, I find myself reflecting on the balance we hold in our work every day.

At YWCA Missoula, we often witness the hardest parts of what families are facing. We have to be real about the unfairness and struggle our neighbors are up against. But at the same time, our work calls us to imagine something better. We can't fix everything, but we believe in what is possible and we are committed to helping families move toward it. A crucial part of what makes this work happen is our supporters and volunteers....you.

With winter almost here, we, as a community, are once again coming together to ensure people have a warm, safe place to stay. Here at The Meadowlark, we are getting ready to stretch our capacity to offer emergency overflow space on the coldest nights.

We also know that shelter is only the beginning. Stability takes time, consistent support, and neighbors willing to walk alongside families as they rebuild. These challenges are real, but so is the commitment I see in Missoula every day.

As we move into the final weeks of the year, I invite you to **support our year-end fundraising effort for nights of shelter**. Your generosity helps us show up for families in their hardest moments while building the future we're working toward: one where every family is housed, supported, and able to thrive. *All gifts will be matched*, thanks to a generous supporter!

Thank you for being part of the YWCA community. Happy Holidays, and a joyful New Year..... from our house to yours.

In Possibility,
Jen



New & Noteworthy

Double Your Impact: More Nights of Shelter for Families This Winter

Thanks to incredible community generosity, we've already raised \$21,700 to help fund nights of shelter for unhoused families. We're now working toward a \$30,000 goal, and **every dollar donated is matched**, providing twice the nights of warmth, stability, and safety for families who need shelter this winter.

This is a moment for collective care—when our community comes together to ensure every family has a safe place to land. If you're able, *please help us close the gap by December 31*. Your support truly makes a difference. **Donate here.**

Exploring a New Violence Prevention Program for Boys

Violence prevention is a key part of YWCA Missoula's work, and we've long discussed ways to expand it meaningfully. We are now exploring a prevention-focused group for boys in our community—designed to build healthy relationships, support positive identity development, and prevent violence before it starts.

We are in the early planning stages and want input from parents, professionals, and community members to ensure the program is accessible, relevant, and effective.

Please take a moment to **complete this survey**—and share it with others—to help us create a program rooted in prevention, care, and community wisdom.

Staff Spotlight

Chris Young-Greer, Director of Belonging

Chris brings more than 30 years of experience in equity and justice work. Before joining YWCA, she served as the Director of DEIJ and Education Reform for the Montana Racial Equity Project and is also the owner of Elevated Tier Consulting. Her work has included training organizations on equity and anti-racism, as well as supporting school districts in addressing racism and facilitating restorative conversations.

A Summa Cum Laude graduate of the University of Montana, Chris holds degrees in Sociology and in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.



Chris believes that real change begins with naming systemic racism and committing to the ongoing, sometimes challenging conversations needed to build more just and equitable communities.

Originally from Austin, Texas, Chris has lived in Montana for nine years and is still adjusting to the winters. Outside of work, she enjoys bow hunting, fly fishing, road trips, karaoke (after 20 years as a jazz singer), and spending time with her Australian Shepherd. Fun fact: her favorite animal is the beluga whale—and she's swum with them.

Program Updates

Holiday Gift Certificates Available



Looking for a thoughtful last-minute holiday gift? Secret Seconds gift certificates are a perfect option for the thrifters in your life. They're easy to give, fun to use, and every purchase supports YWCA Missoula programs. A gift that feels good to give—and even better to spend.

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

Upcoming Support Group for Survivors of Sexual Violence

YWCA Missoula's clinical program will be offering a free, closed support group for survivors of sexual violence **beginning January 22**. This 10-week group, *tentatively scheduled for Thursdays at 5:30 PM*, is open to people of all genders.

If you've had a sexual experience—recent or long ago—that didn't feel fully consensual and it's impacting you, you're not alone. This group provides a safe, confidential space to process and heal from sexual assault, coercion, or other non-consensual experiences.

***Pre-registration is required.** To learn more or sign up, please contact Carol at (406) 541-4006 or croberts@ywcaofmissoula.org.

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.

Save the Date: Martin Luther King Jr. Community Celebration

Please join the Missoula community for the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Community Celebration on **Monday, January 19, 2026**...an evening to come together in reflection, connection, and collective commitment to justice and belonging.

We hope you'll join neighbors from across Missoula to honor Dr. King's legacy and continue the work of building a more just and connected community.

Find more [event details here](#).



Get Involved

Last Minute Call for Holiday Donations!

We still need your help to make the season brighter for families at the Family Housing Center! Supplies on our holiday wish lists are needed as soon as possible, ideally **by 5 PM this Friday**, but next Monday works too. Find the updated [sign-up list here](#).

We're also looking for five last-minute sponsors for families who recently entered shelter. If you're interested in fulfilling wish lists please email Tara at tweaselhead@ywcaofmissoula.org.

Thank you for helping bring joy and support to families in need this holiday season!

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:

- Secret Seconds Store Clerk

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



YWCA Missoula | 1800 S 3rd St W | Missoula, MT 59801 US

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