



A Letter from Jen Euell, Executive Director

Dear Friends,

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, a time to stand with survivors, honor the work of advocates, and reaffirm our commitment to ending violence in our community.

Like many of you, we've been following the recent lawsuit against Cornell University and the courage of Jane Doe and others who have come forward. While this case has captured national attention, it reflects a reality that far too many people in our community experience every day. In the last year, YWCA Missoula provided **9,413 nights of shelter** to adults and children fleeing domestic and sexual violence. Our Pathways shelter is literally overflowing on an ongoing basis.

Every survivor deserves access to support. If you or someone you know has experienced interpersonal violence, YWCA Missoula can help. Our 24/7 crisis line is here not only for emergencies, but also for anyone seeking information or guidance for themselves or a loved one. We also offer weekly support groups where people can connect, heal, and find community. Please help us spread the word. Having this circle of support can often be the key to a successful recovery from trauma.

On October 21, YWCA Missoula and community partners will host a domestic violence awareness walk. We invite you to join us as we stand with survivors, hold perpetrators accountable, and celebrate healthy relationships. You'll find details about the walk below.

Together we have the means to build a community where violence is rare, respect and safety are expected, and recovery is supported. Thank you for being a part of building a more peaceful and thriving Missoula!

In Possibility,
Jen

New & Noteworthy

Walk Together for Domestic Violence Awareness Month

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, a time to uplift survivor voices, promote healthy relationships, and stand together against violence. We invite our community to join us on **Wednesday, October 21** for a walk in support of survivors and a future free from domestic violence.

9:30 AM: Coffee and poster-making

10:15 AM: Walk begins!



Join our community walk for
**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
AWARENESS**

We'll gather at the YWCA (1800 S. 3rd St. W.) for coffee, treats, and poster-making, before heading out to the Russell Street Bridge and back to the YWCA. Bring a friend, **wear purple**, and join us as we come together in solidarity, support, and hope.

Join the YWCA Board of Directors

Want to help shape the future of YWCA Missoula? We're looking for up to five new members to **join our Board of Directors**, with terms beginning in January 2027.

Our board helps guide the programs and services that provide safe shelter, housing support, and vital resources for families experiencing domestic and sexual violence.

We're especially seeking **people with experience in social work, legal or financial fields, communications/PR, and construction/development**—but we value a wide range of perspectives, experiences, and skills. If you care about building a safer, more equitable Missoula, we'd love to hear from you.

Board members serve a three-year term, attend monthly board meetings, participate on at least one committee, and support fundraising and community engagement efforts.

Learn more here. Applications are due October 16, 2026.



New Advocates Complete Fall Training

Congratulations to our fall Volunteer Advocate Training cohort! Fourteen participants recently completed our 40-hour training, preparing them to serve as volunteer advocates, join our staff team, or deepen their professional development. We're grateful for the time, energy, and commitment they brought to this intensive, hands-on training, which

equips participants to support survivors and engage thoughtfully in challenging but meaningful work.

Interested in a future training? Contact our Volunteer Manager at tweaselhead@ywcaofmissoula.org to learn about upcoming opportunities.

Staff Spotlight

Kamyshia Thompson, Volunteer Program Practicum Student

Kamyshia is YWCA Missoula's new Volunteer Program Practicum Student, where she helps coordinate volunteer trainings, supports outreach and recruitment efforts, and assists with



volunteer engagement. She brings a background in social work and a strong interest in community-based approaches to supporting individuals and families.

As part of her practicum experience, Kamy helps strengthen the systems that make it possible for volunteers to support YWCA programs. Her commitment to restorative justice and community care aligns closely with the missions of both YWCA Missoula and the School of Social Work.

Outside of work, Kamy enjoys spending time with her pets, reading, hiking, and being outdoors whenever she can.

Program Updates

Weekly Support Group for Survivors

You don't have to navigate healing alone. The YWCA's weekly support group offers a confidential, survivor-only space for adults who have experienced abuse, control, manipulation, or interpersonal violence. Connect with others who understand, share experiences in a supportive environment, and access encouragement and resources on your healing journey. *You can bring your kids* - there's a separate group for children.

Group meets every Tuesday

- 5:30 p.m. – Free dinner
- 6:15 p.m. – Support group
 - If it's your first time attending, please arrive by 6:00 p.m.
- A children's group is offered at the same time.

Questions? Contact Carol at 543-6691 x151.



Fall Finds at Secret Seconds

Whether you're piecing together a Halloween costume, hunting for the perfect flannel, or gearing up for Griz season, Secret Seconds is full of treasures this time of year. Refresh your wardrobe without breaking the bank!

Proceeds from Secret Seconds go directly to YWCA Missoula programs and services. The stores are an important source of funding for our work, helping ensure support remains available when people need it most.

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

Find Your "Y"

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.

Honoring Indigenous Peoples' Day - October 12th

The traditions, cultures, and teachings of Indigenous nations are inseparable from the history and future of this land. This Indigenous Peoples' Day, we celebrate the enduring contributions, leadership, and resilience of Native peoples while recognizing the ongoing impacts of colonization, discrimination, and violence experienced by Indigenous communities. Honoring Indigenous Peoples' Day means lifting Indigenous voices, confronting harmful histories, and working toward a more just and equitable future.

We encourage everyone to join the celebration at Caras Park, hosted by the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes. Enjoy traditional dancers, drumming, singers, vendors, and food trucks. Don't miss the Grand Entry at 1 PM! Free and open to all.

2026
"Honoring our Ancestors"
Celebration @
Missoula, MT
October 12, 2026
Grand Entry - 1:00 p.m.

-Head Woman Dancer Special:
Honoring Mother's and Aunties
Winner take all

-Head Man Dancer Special:
Round/Drop Bustle

****Feed @ 11:30 a.m. - till gone**
****Dance Categories**
****Day Pay for drums**

Information or Vendors Call or email:
Jan Gardipe (406) 745-4572 x5301 or jeanette.gardipe@cskt.org
Martin Charlo (406) 274-6892 or martin.charlo@cskt.org

Occupational Therapy Students Bring Added Support Across YWCA Programs

This semester, six occupational therapy students from the University of Montana are completing field placements across YWCA programs, expanding support for participants at the Family Housing Center, Youth Services, and Pathways domestic violence shelter. Occupational therapists help people of all ages build the skills, routines, and confidence needed to engage in everyday life, whether that's managing mental health, navigating daily responsibilities, or

participating fully in school, work, and community. We're grateful for the partnership and the additional capacity these students bring to our programs each week!

Get Involved

Donate Items on the Wish List

You can make an immediate impact for the families and survivors in our programs by donating essential items on our wish list. Right now, our shelter residents are especially in need of **full and twin size fitted sheets, bath towels, baby wipes and size 6-7 diapers**.

Donating is easy: you can **order directly from our Amazon Wish List** and have items shipped straight to YWCA. You can also drop off *new or gently used* items at The Meadowlark front desk (1800 S. 3rd St. W.) during business hours, M-F, 9am-5pm.

Help Make Thanksgiving Special for Shelter Residents

This Thanksgiving, we're preparing a holiday meal for residents at our Pathways Domestic Violence Shelter, and we're looking for community members to help make it a warm and memorable celebration. Volunteers can sponsor and prepare meal items ranging from turkeys and side dishes to desserts and beverages.

Find more details and **sign up here**.

Thank you for helping create a sense of comfort, community, and celebration for survivors spending the holiday at Pathways. Your generosity makes a meaningful difference.



Support Families with YWCA + MIC License Plate

Show your support for local families by purchasing a YWCA Missoula + MIC Family Housing Center specialty license plate. Proceeds help provide shelter and support services for

families experiencing homelessness in Missoula.

Featuring a simple, starry mountain design, the plate is a visible reminder that everyone deserves a safe place to call home.

You can purchase the plate at any time through your county treasurer's office. **Learn more here**.

Job Opportunities

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

- Development Director (full time)
- Secret Seconds Store Clerk (full time and part time)

Find job descriptions and how to apply **here**.



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

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