

# IMPACT REPORT

eliminating racism  
empowering women  
**ywca**  
missoula

A snapshot of our work together and our  
mission in action, July 2022- June 2023.

**FY  
23**





**YWCA Missoula is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women, and promoting peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all.**

We carry out our mission in service to the community by working to end domestic and sexual violence, help unsheltered families obtain stable housing, and transform Missoula into a place where all people, regardless of their race or gender, have access to resources they need and opportunities for growth, leadership, and power. **Last year, YWCA Missoula served 3,168 people across all our programs.**



**102 children** enjoyed time with their non-custodial parent at Planet Kids, our supervised visitation and exchange center for families impacted by domestic violence.



**303 families**, including **575 children**, accessed emergency shelter or other supportive services at the Family Housing Center, jointly operated by the YWCA and MIC's Family Promise program.



**369 children** participated in therapeutic activities, received behavioral support, and/or developed leadership skills through GUTS! community groups.



**8,440 nights of safe shelter** provided to adults and children fleeing violence (14% increase from prior year)

## Keeping Pets and Survivors Together

With support from RedRover's Safe Housing program and the Office for Victims of Crime, our domestic violence shelter now welcomes pets. Six rooms at The Meadowlark were redesigned with pet-friendly features, including vinyl flooring, and an outdoor exercise area. Through a partnership with the Western Montana Humane Society, pets receive behavioral therapy, toys, and other essentials. This initiative aligns with our commitment to reducing barriers for survivors seeking shelter.



## Expanding Impact of Youth Services

This year, Youth Services experienced significant growth, expanding programs to enhance children's social and emotional skills. At The Meadowlark, on-site activities like toddler time, story hour, movie nights, and seasonal events were well-attended, offering crucial support to families in our shelters. Our GUTS! leadership program led groups in local schools, including a collaboration with Indigenous partners in the Arlee school district. These initiatives foster healthy development and create a space for kids to thrive.



### **YWCA Welcomes New Director**

In January 2023, YWCA Missoula welcomed Jen Euell as the new Executive Director, succeeding Cindy Weese upon her retirement. Jen has over 25 years of experience advocating for gender equity, including a decade at YWCA Missoula where she held numerous staff and volunteer roles. Jen is committed to fostering a culture of care, implementing policy changes, and expanding prevention efforts to address root causes of harm and inequity.



## **LOOKING AHEAD to 2024**

### **Anti-Racism Audit: A Commitment to Growth & Accountability**

In late 2023, YWCA Missoula hired Widerstand Consulting to conduct a comprehensive anti-racism audit. Eliminating racism is not just an abstract goal for us—it directly impacts and is inherently connected to all our programs and services. The audit process involved a review of policies, finances, and communications, and focus groups with staff, volunteers, participants, and stakeholders. Acting on audit recommendations, we bolstered the Racial Justice staff position, revitalized the Racial Justice Task Force, and initiated staff training and policy reviews. Our 2024 annual plan aims for meaningful change and equity across all programs, reinforcing our commitment to eliminating racism at every level of service delivery.

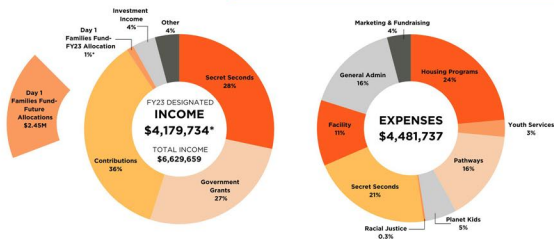
### **Transforming Lives Through Wrap-Around Family Care**

A new Wrap Around Family Care (WAFC) pilot program, generously supported by the Llewellyn Foundation and the Cross Charitable Foundation, aims to provide more comprehensive care to families at The Meadowlark. Led by the clinical team, and implemented by graduate-level counseling and social work students, the program provides cost-effective mental health care, parenting education, and connection to community resources. The University of Montana will evaluate the program's efficacy, ensuring a comprehensive analysis to guide future services. By addressing generational trauma cycles, WAFC can positively impact both families in shelter and the broader community.

# THANK YOU for making a difference

YWCA programs are supported by generous financial contributions from community members and foundations, grant funding, and proceeds from YWCA Missoula's Secret Seconds Thrift Stores. Our services are also provided in part by volunteers and practicum students, who gave a total of nearly 7,000 hours last year to our programs.

2,160 donors made a gift in FY 2023 | Average donation - \$354



\*In Fiscal Year 2023, YWCA Missoula received \$2.5M from the Bezos Day 1 Families Fund for providing services to houseless families. \$50,000 was allocated for FY23 and the remaining \$2.45M for the next four years. While this grant presents an opportunity for significant program improvements, the key challenge lies in establishing a sustainable strategy to cover ongoing costs, including staffing, once the funds are exhausted.



YWCA Missoula staff members, December 2023