



In Missoula, houselessness is an increasingly critical issue, impacting hundreds of our neighbors annually. Last year alone, we provided emergency shelter to 334 unhoused individuals, including 173 children, through our family housing center. Since opening The Meadowlark three years ago, we have consistently operated at or near capacity. This highlights the systemic issues contributing to houselessness, such as the lack of affordable housing, rental discrimination, unequal access to basic resources, and domestic violence—one of the primary causes of family houselessness. Our Pathways domestic violence shelter, which provided an additional 8,440 nights of safe shelter to adults and children fleeing violence last year, ensures that survivors in our community don't have to choose between their safety and having a place to live.

Summer poses additional risks for families facing houselessness. The end of the school year can make crowded living conditions unsustainable for families doubling up with others, as children are home all day. Host families typically lack the means to accommodate guests long-term. Higher temperatures during the summer months can also add stress to already challenging living situations, making the need for stable housing even more urgent.

That's why we are dedicated to being a resource for the community and adapting to meet the changing needs. In partnership with MIC's Family Promise program, we can shelter up to 25 families at a time in the family housing center. Beyond providing shelter, families at our center benefit from on-site case management, mental health services, children's programs, and nightly dinners. And including both our Pathways domestic violence shelter and our overflow dormitory we can house up to 44 families at The Meadowlark at any one time.

While we are grateful to be able to do so much good for so many, serving more than 3,000 people last year, we recognize that the need continues to grow. And we know that the only way to meet it is with your help.

Thank you for your continued support as we work towards creating a community where every family has a safe and stable place to call home.

In Possibility,
Jen

New & Noteworthy

Join us at the Paddleheads Game on July 23rd!

Support the YWCA while enjoying a fun-filled night at the ballpark! Join us as the Missoula Paddleheads take on the Billings Mustangs on **July 23rd at Ogren Park at Allegiance Field**.

100% of **tickets purchased through our unique link** will directly support YWCA Missoula's

vital programs and services. Bring your friends and family to enjoy the game and make a positive impact in our community. Together, we can #StrikeOutDomesticViolence.

Don't miss this chance to support a great cause while cheering on your favorite local baseball team!

Buy tickets [HERE](#) (use this special link to support YWCA Missoula)



Find Your "Y"

Introducing our newsletter spotlight, Find your 'Y': for social justice, anti-racism, and cultural awareness. Each month we'll highlight events, de-bunk myths, explore important topics, and celebrate diverse cultures and identities.

This month, we celebrated Black Hair Independence Day (July 3), also known

as National CROWN Day. This day raises awareness about the CROWN Act, legislation that combats racial discrimination based on hair texture and protective hairstyles in workplaces and schools. Originating in California in 2019, this law has since been adopted by 17 states. **Learn more about the CROWN Act.**

On July 18, observe Nelson Mandela Day, honoring his legacy of peace, freedom, and democracy. Take part in the global call to action by dedicating 67 minutes to volunteering or community service, reflecting Mandela's 67 years of public service. Join us in promoting acceptance, equality, and justice. **Learn more about Nelson Mandela.**

Last \$1,000 Needed for Youth Services

Thank you to everyone who has donated to our Youth Services fundraiser! **We're just \$1,000 away from our fundraising goal and need your help to cross the finish line.** Any amount, whether \$5 or \$100, can make a difference. This summer, we have averaged 74 children, including newborns, school-aged kids, and teenagers, staying each night at our Meadowlark shelters. Your donation supports essential programs like support groups for children affected by domestic violence, therapeutic play activities, seasonal events, enriching child supervision, and leadership development for older kids.

Donate

Secret Seconds Wins Best Thrift Store

We're honored to have Secret Seconds voted #1 Best Thrift Store for the Best of Missoula awards! Thank you to all our amazing shoppers, donors and store staff!

Kensington store updateOur Kensington location is temporarily closed due to building repairs. We will be re-opening very soon- stay tuned!

50% Off SaleThe summer sale is currently planned for **July 26 and 27** (unless repairs at Kensington take longer). More info to come!



Staff Spotlight

Chris Young-Greer, Director of Racial Justice and Equity

We are pleased to welcome Chris Young-Greer to the team as YWCA Missoula's first Director of Racial Justice and Equity! Chris brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to her role, including serving as the former Director of Racial Justice, Equity, Inclusion, and Education Reform for The Montana Racial Equity Project. Chris is passionate about creating space for LGBTQIA+2, BIPOC, disability communities and every intersection within these and other marginalized identities. As a mother of three adult children, she has experienced firsthand the need for representation, belonging, and understanding.



Chris is passionate about the mission of the YWCA and is committed to building deep community relationships with other likeminded organizations. She is thrilled to have the opportunity to engage in the continued vision of making our state and nation more inclusive for all.

Chris' hobbies reflect her understanding of the importance of self-care while engaging in this important work. She loves horseback riding, camping, fly-fishing, taking hikes with her partner and fur-baby, and curling up in her hammock with a good book! Travel is always at the top of her list of favorite things to do because she believes traveling and experiencing other cultures is the most profound way to eliminate stereotypes and racism.

Alta Clark, Volunteer Program Manager

Alta Clark grew up in rural Wyoming, learning the power of community-driven solutions early on. Her social justice journey began in college and has guided her ever since.

Starting as an educator with the Civic Leadership Institute, Alta facilitated solutions to social justice issues for high school students. She then served as a lobbying aide in the Montana State Legislature, gaining firsthand legislative experience.

Focusing on women's healthcare, Alta joined Bright Futures, a youth mentorship program that promotes healthy relationships, nutrition, and mental health for high school girls. This led her to join the organization's board, aiding its growth and volunteer recruitment. She later pursue Nursing studies and worked alongside a women's health practitioner. She also managed a nonprofit empowering women, non-binary individuals, and queer communities in the outdoors.



In her free time, Alta enjoys outdoor activities like rock climbing and skiing, as well as dancing, sewing projects, and reading her latest library book. As the new Volunteer Program Manager, looks forward to collaborating with everyone to further YWCA Missoula's mission.

Program Updates

GUTS! Summer Camp

GUTS! camp is off to a fantastic start, embarking on lots of exciting adventures around Missoula. The campers have biked along trails, floated down the river, and visited the enchanting Butterfly House and the innovative Home Resource community sustainability center.

From building lasting friendships to nurturing self-expression and boosting confidence, our campers are making the most of every moment. We're thrilled to see them embrace our community and all it has to offer. Here's to more fun, growth, and empowerment in the coming weeks!



New Mural in Domestic Violence Shelter

Our Pathways domestic violence shelter recently received a special new addition! Many thanks to Ann Karp of Sideways Gaze Art and Sign for painting this beautiful weeping willow tree on the wall of the living room area. It adds warmth, peace, and coziness to the space, where survivors and their children play, relax, eat, make phone calls, and connect with others.

Get Involved

Donate Household Cleaning Items for Shelter Residents Moving to Their Own Homes

Help domestic violence survivors transition smoothly from shelter to their own homes by donating household cleaning items that they can bring with them. Needed items include toilet bowl cleaner, toilet brushes, sponges, dish scrub brushes, brooms, window cleaner, laundry detergent, dryer sheets, paper towels, garbage bags, and dish soap. You can **order from our Amazon wish list** and select YWCA Missoula shipping address at checkout, or drop off donations at The Meadowlark front desk, 1800 S. 3rd St. W., Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm.

[View Wish List](#)



Get a Family Housing Center License Plate

Make a difference in our community by purchasing a YWCA Missoula + MIC Family Housing Center license plate. With its simple, starry mountain design, the plate represents your commitment to investing in families and children and helps fund essential services and support to unhoused families at

The Meadowlark.

[Learn more](#)

Employment Opportunities

Join our team and make a difference in the community! We're currently hiring for the following positions:

- Pathways Advocate (daytime and evening positions)
- Family Housing Center Advocate
- Finance Specialist
- Housing Stabilization Case Manager

[Learn more and apply](#)



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