

ON A MISSION: AN UPDATE FOR YWCA SUPPORTERS



Greetings and Gratitude

This year will bring much change to our organization and the community. We're very excited that [Missoula City Council recently approved a permit for the YWCA to proceed with plans to build a new facility](#). The new facility will contain our main service center, an expanded domestic violence shelter, and a new emergency housing center for homeless families—all under one roof.



As we embark on this project, I am encouraged by all that we were able to do together in 2018:

At the Pathways domestic violence shelter we provided 5,366 nights of safety and support to 266 survivors—women, children and men who were fleeing violence and had nowhere else to turn.

We have also continued to be the primary emergency housing provider to homeless families in Missoula. Last year, in our housing programs we served nearly 900 people, families with children who suddenly found themselves with no place to live, often due to domestic violence or unaffordable rent.

We have our work cut out for us in 2019. Thanks to the strength and support of this community, I am confident that we will rise to its challenges with success and grace.

With gratitude,

Cindy Weese
Executive Director

What's New

Vote for YWCA to Participate in *Bags of Change* with Lucky's Market



We have been nominated to participate in the Lucky's Market *Bags of Change* donation program-- [but we need your vote!](#) Please cast your vote by Monday, January 14th to help YWCA Missoula become a *Bags of Change* partner next quarter.

If we are selected, Lucky's customers will receive a wooden dime to donate every time they bring a reusable bag. At the end of the quarter, Lucky's will double the amount raised!

[Click here to vote!](#) One vote per person. Thank you for your support!

Read YWCA and MIC's Guest Column in the Missoulian

Want to learn more about why and how the YWCA and Missoula Interfaith Collaborative are committed to ending family homelessness in Missoula? Check out our [recent guest column](#) published in the Missoulian.

Volunteer with GUTS!

The GUTS! (Girls Using Their Strengths) program is recruiting volunteers who identify with womanhood to facilitate weekly groups and provide mentorship for girls and teens in Missoula schools. Volunteers are trained in the GUTS! leadership curriculum and implement interactive and fun activities that provide girls a safe place to explore their personal strengths, tackle challenges, work on community projects, have fun, and be themselves.



Interested volunteers should [complete an application here](#) and plan to attend one of two orientation sessions: Monday, January 17th or Tuesday, January 22nd.

Contact [Tess Sneeringer](#) with questions.

Ruby's Donates Rooms for Families in Housing Program



Huge thanks to Ruby's Inn for generously donating three motel rooms to YWCA Missoula this winter that will be occupied by families in our Emergency Housing Program. Families with children can stay for up to 50 days as they work to secure stable housing of their own. We are incredibly grateful to Ruby's for helping to meet such a critical need in our community!

Motels that donate rooms are eligible to receive a lodging tax credit. Do you know of other motels or hotels that may be interested participating in this program? Please refer them to Patty Murphy, 543-6691 or pmurphy@ywcaofmissoula.org.

Program Updates

31 Families Receive Gifts for the Holidays



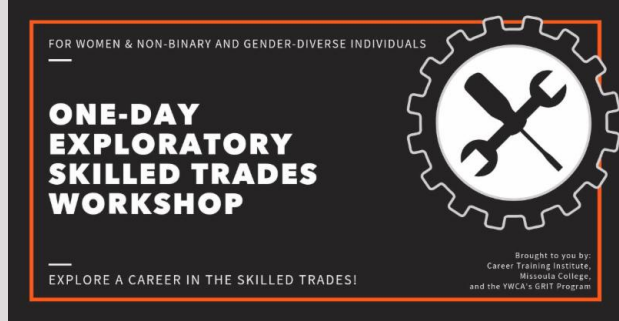
Thanks to the generosity of local businesses, neighbors and students from the University of Montana, 31 families in our housing programs and Pathways shelter received gift baskets and treats for the holidays. We received many donations, including beautiful knit hats and homemade baked goods. Thank you to all who donated gifts, supplies, time and lots of heat to help make the holidays special for so many families and children in our programs.

GRIT to Hold Exploratory Skilled Trades Workshop

YWCA's GRIT Program, Missoula College University of Montana, and the Career Training Institute in Helena are hosting a one-day workshop for women and non-binary and gender-diverse individuals to explore a potential career in trade and skill-related fields, from which they are often excluded.

The event will begin with a panel of trades representatives, including female panelists who will speak on their experience in these male-dominated fields. From there, participants will break into groups and rotate through 5 hands-on exploratory stations at Missoula College: welding, construction, diesel technology, machining, and heavy equipment operation.

This workshop is FREE and open to women and non-binary and gender-diverse people who are aged 14+. We will have a maximum of 60 spots available and pre-registration is required! [Register here.](#)



Who We Are

Welcome to Our New GUTS! Staff!



GUTS! has recently added some new faces to the team:

Sam Duncan (left), GRIT Coordinator, has been dabbling in the trades their whole life and, through the GRIT program, they are excited to help kids build self-confidence, self-sufficiency, skills, and maybe some furniture. They're honored to get to work near and with so many passionate people. They believe in ghosts and space aliens. Libra-cancer-libra.

Fey Reynolds (middle), GUTS! Expansion Coordinator, has spent most of the last decade working with children and families. Fey spent the last three years on the remote Pacific island of

Tinian, home to the Chamorro and Carolinian people, where she taught English Language Arts. She also implemented an after-school tutoring program and taught teachers how to incorporate technology in the classroom. Fey recently relocated to Missoula from Tinian after being accepted into UM's Global Youth Development Master's Program. Fey is originally from Montana and is pleased to be able to bring the GUTS! program to rural communities in her home state.

Tess Sneeringer (right), GUTS Program Coordinator, hails from Washington, D.C. and attended Middlebury College in Vermont. For the past three years she has pursued a career in outdoor education, working seasonally as an outdoor instructor in locations ranging from North Carolina to Alaska. She was drawn to GUTS! for its focus on building leadership and communication skills, both in the classroom and outdoors. When not working or playing outside, Tess likes to do crosswords, read or watch dystopian sci-fi, and stay in touch with family and friends from around the country.

Secret Seconds News & Updates

Donate Housewares to Secret Seconds

Do you have household items you're looking to pass along? Both stores are currently looking for gently used housewares.

As always, all purchases will go directly to YWCA Missoula programs that help local families in crisis. Shopping at [Secret Seconds](#) is one of the best ways to support our mission and programs!

Find us at 920 Kensington and 1136 W. Broadway. Open Monday thru Saturday, 10 AM - 7 PM, and Sunday 12 PM - 5 PM.



Get Involved

Donate Items to Support Families in Crisis

Sometimes our participants leave with only the clothing on their backs. Your donations provide basic necessities to help families through everyday challenges.



Domestic Violence Shelter:

- Twin-size comforters
- Baby swing
- Gift certificates for local vets
- Bike locks
- Umbrellas
- Baby slings
- Household tools/ toolkits
- Movie passes/ gift cards for families
- Suitcases/ luggage
- Mops
- Sewing machine
- Sewing kit/ fabric/ sewing notions (scissors, seam rippers, pin cushion, etc.)

Housing Program:

- 2019 Planners
- Accordion files for organizing paperwork
- Brooms/mops/dustpans
- Kitchen garbage cans
- Microwavable dishes
- Can openers
- Toiletry items (shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, etc.)
- Cleaning supplies
- Sponges
- Disinfecting wipes
- Non-perishable food items: soup, canned chili, peanut butter and jelly, microwavable mac & cheese, applesauce, canned fruit, small cereal packets.
- Bagless vacuums

Planet Kids:

- Vacuum
- Board games for teens/older kids
- Arts and crafts supplies

GUTS!:

- Mini-fridge
- Craft supplies (glue, paper, scissors, play dough, etc)

[View our complete wish list here!](#)

Upcoming Events

Racial Justice Book Club Meeting

Donors, supporters, and all community members are invited to attend the YWCA Racial Justice Initiative's book club, which features books written by Indigenous people and people of color. This month we'll be discussing *There There* by Tommy Orange.

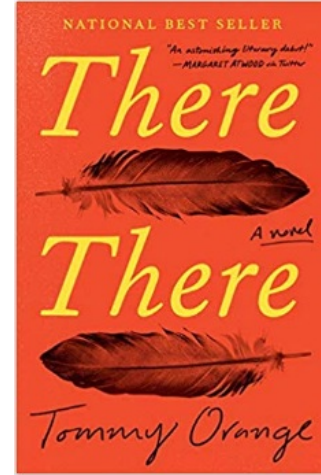
In January we will hold both a lunchtime and evening meeting. Attend whichever time works best for you!

Thursday, January 17th, 6-7:30 PM
OR

Thursday, January 31st, 12-1 PM

Questions? Contact Lydia at lschildt@ywcaofmissoula.org or 543-6691.

[RSVP on the Facebook event page.](#)



GRIT High School Carpentry Workshop

This 20-hour carpentry workshop is free and open to high school girls and non-binary and gender-diverse students! Participants will gain tangible skills through hours of hands-on practice, work as a team to complete projects and solve problems, build confidence and leadership skills, make new friends, and have lots of fun! Over the 4 days of learning, participants will complete a personal project to take home.

Saturday, January 12th: 9:00am-4:00pm
Tuesday, January 15th: 4:00pm-7:00pm
Saturday, January 26th: 9:00am-4:00pm
Tuesday January 29th: 4:00pm-7:00pm



Pre-registration is required! [Please fill out the online registration form to ensure you have a spot.](#)

Questions? Contact Sam at sduncan@ywcaofmissoula.org or 543-6691.

YWConnect Tours

Learn about how the YWCA's programs benefit homeless families, domestic violence survivors and youth. Join us for an informational tour! **Light lunch provided.** Noon- 1 PM.

Tuesday, February 12th
Tuesday, March 12th
Tuesday, April 9th

[RSVP here.](#) Contact [Alex](#) with any questions.

YWCA Missoula | (406) 543-6691 | www.ywcaofmissoula.org

Crisis line: (406) 542-1944 or (800) 483-7858

STAY CONNECTED

