

DOING MORE TOGETHER

Fall 2024 Donor Newsletter



A Message from Heather

Dear Y Friend,

It's been a year of big changes at our Y and none of it would've been possible without the generous support of folks like you! Our capital campaign construction is well underway. In the past 12 months we've completed renovations on a number of areas to make them more accessible and functional for Western Montanans of all ages.

We're about halfway through construction and already we're seeing how these changes are making **big impacts** in our community. I want to share two quick stories that highlight the work that your gift is accomplishing.

Sydney L. is a teacher at our **brand-new** Phyllis Washington Early Child Care Center. This state-of-the-art center opened in July, and in the few months that it's been open, Sydney and her fellow teachers are already seeing the positive impact it's having on students:

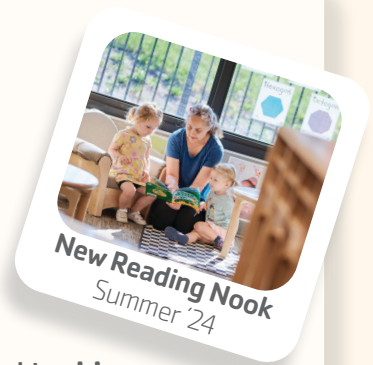
"Being able to provide an environment that is conducive to the success of young learners is one of greatest gifts that you could ever give to families, students and educators alike, and our new center has done just that," she told us. **"Not only does the facility now allow so much spatial opportunity for group and center play, but it also allows for designated quiet spaces. We are finding that the new center is empowering our students to communicate their needs and feelings more openly."**

The effects of this project are being felt throughout the Y's campus, including in our **newly renovated pool**. Mark C. has been a Missoula YMCA member since the late '80s. He's an avid swimmer and was thrilled when the pool reopened in September. One of his favorite improvements is actually a "hidden" one, but it's an improvement that's producing some **MAJOR** results. He recently shared with us:

"I am most pleased with the repair of the water filtration system. The water is now always clear and the temperature and water quality is so much better and stable. The improvements make the time spent in the pool much more pleasant and it's easier to concentrate on my swimming. There is no more struggling to see the walls on my turns and I can see what is going on around me."

These are just a few of the many stories that YOU are making possible!
We are in the FINAL stages of fundraising with a goal to raise the remaining \$1.5 million by December 31.

Sincerely,
Heather Foster
CEO



Hard Hat Tour
Check out construction, as well as our updated spaces! Scan the QR code to schedule your tour.

RENOVATED & NOW OPEN!

Thanks your generous donors like you, the following spaces have been renovated and are now open:

Health & Wellness Center
Community Hub
Indoor Pool
Gymnasium
Indoor Track

Family Locker Room
Administrative Offices
Phyllis Washington Early
Child Care Center



Camp Field Trip to Lowell Park
Summer '24



YMCA After School
Spring '24

2024 SUMMER CAMP WRAP UP

We had another successful and **FUN** summer of camp this year!

- **875** kids served
- **1 in 5** kids received some form of financial assistance to attend camp
- More than **\$150,000** in financial assistance and community subsidies utilized by campers
- Kids from **17** Montana counties attended camp
- **33,567** healthy meals and snacks served

We're already looking forward to the 2025 camp season, and we're excited to announce a **NEW** camp collaboration between the Y, the University of Montana Summer Office, and Coding for Kids, a local nonprofit. This new camp, called Dream Hackerz, was developed in direct response to the need for more STEAM education opportunities for kids in western Montana.

From coding to digital arts to robotics and more, experienced instructors from UM and Coding for Kids will find creative ways to energize learners by designing classes that focus on practical, experiential learning with active student participation. As always, we'll make financial assistance available to anyone who needs it so that all kids in our community can have access to these opportunities.



Future Airnasium

COMING SOON!

Construction is planned or has started for the following spaces:

Youth Innovation Center* New Fitness Studio
Men's Locker Room Airnasium*
Women's Locker Room All-Abilities Playground*
Expanded Child Watch* Splash Pad*

*We are still working to **fully fund** these areas. Contact us at 406-532-6261 to learn how you can give a gift to help us raise the **final \$1.5 million** by December 31!



Rafting the Clark Fork
Summer Camp '24



Andrea Dahl
Missoula YMCA Member

WHY THE Y

For Andrea Dahl, the Y is not only a place to be active and get healthy, it's also a place full of familiar faces and community. She's been a member for more than 30 years and, in that time, she's tried out all different kinds of Y programming. She's also been a great ambassador for the Y over the years. In the mid 2000s, when she was a social worker, Andrea often encouraged her clients to use their medicare benefits to purchase a Y membership.

"It's just such a friendly environment that I really enjoyed being a part of. I wanted other people to be able to enjoy it, too," Andrea says.

When Andrea attends the Y now she still sees clients from all those years back. She also runs into people she went to high school with and people who worked with her father and brother on the railroad. Some of those people, like Andrea, have been Y members for decades. She says that she's formed meaningful relationships with a lot of folks at the Y and that's a big part of what keeps her coming back.

Today you can find Andrea attending Silver Sneakers and water aerobics classes. And she's still recruiting new members, too. She recently encouraged her boyfriend to join her Y community and now they enjoy working toward their health goals together.



Awesome Volunteers!
YMCA Fundraising Meeting

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Our Annual Support Campaign runs for 5 weeks in January - March and raises money for Y financial assistance, the program that allows us to fulfill our mission that no one will ever be turned away from Y programs or services due to an inability to pay.

Each year, more than 60 community volunteer campaigners reach out to friends, family, and coworkers to ask them to make a donation to support this cause. It's a fun way to get involved with the Y and to make a direct, positive impact on our community!

This year's theme is Space Odyssey and the campaign is blasting off on January 29, 2025. If you'd like to be a volunteer campaigner or you'd like to learn more about the campaign, please reach out to Kate Rodriguez, Director of Fund Development, at krdriguez@ymcamissoula.org.