

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

YWCA MISSOULA

PLANET KIDS

Tour presented by

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At a glance



Established in 2004



Missoula, Montana

Serving Missoula County and surrounding counties. We have families who live out of state and utilize our program. Clients are primarily from Missoula, Ravalli, and Lake Counties, though we have a fairly large range given the limited supervised visitation and safe exchange services in Montana.



Community served

Planet Kids serves families affected by domestic violence or child abuse related issues. Almost all families are court ordered to use our services through parenting plans or orders of protection, though we are not a court-run program.

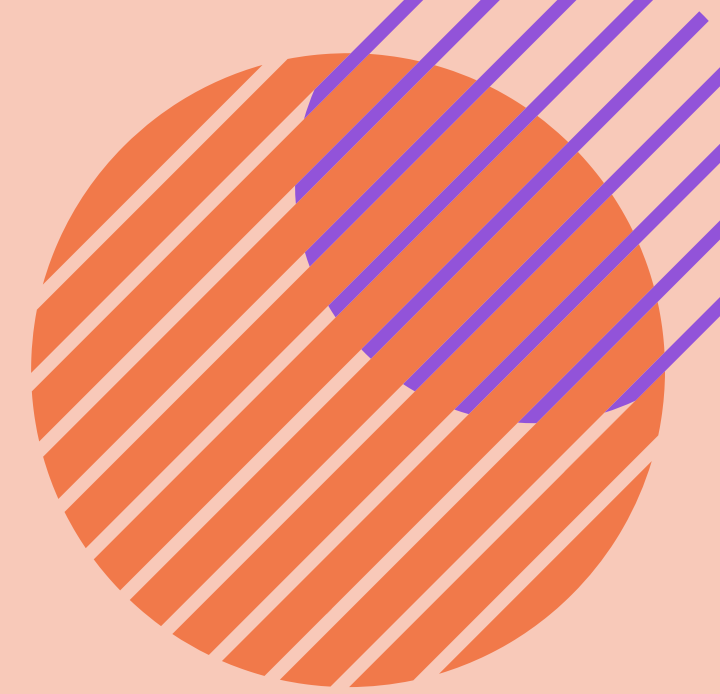
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empowering women

ywca

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Planet Kids Funding



OVW JFF funding synopsis

- Planet Kids just finished our OVW JFF grant cycle at end of September, and we were granted funds again for the next three years.
- Prior to last two grant cycles, we were denied funds and relied on a VOCA grant and YWCA funds to run the program.

Use of funding

- From the last OVW JFF grant award, Planet Kids
 - Moved to a new building
 - Developed new policies and procedures
 - Underwent additional training
 - Provided legal support to clients of Planet Kids and the YWCA
- Under current OVW JFF award, Planet Kids is funded to provide
 - Supervised visitation and exchanges
 - Court and court-based programs and services
 - Civil legal assistance

Other funding sources

- We are also funded by the YWCA through the YWCA Secret Seconds stores and fundraising throughout the year.

Planet Kids Services



Services provided

Supervised visitation and safe exchanges



Hours

Open for 18 hours of visits/exchanges per week

- Sundays
 - 12–6pm
- Mondays and Thursdays
 - 5:30–8:30pm
- Wednesdays and Fridays
 - 4–7pm



About our services

- There are many differences in what schedules families use
 - Some visit bi-weekly, once a month, or multiple times a week
- We provide roughly 25 visits/week
- We provide roughly 15 exchanges/week



About Our Team

- YWCA Director of Programs
 - Full-time position that oversees several major programs, including Planet Kids
- 2 Planet Kids Co-Managers
 - Roughly 20 hours/week
- 2 visit monitors
 - Roughly 19 hours/week
 - Gain additional hours by helping clean the building
- Third visit monitor
 - 10 hours/week
- 3 on-call/fill-in staff
 - Come in as needed
- Cooking angels
 - Volunteers that bring homemade meals for families twice a month

The hours of Planet Safe staff have changed over the years in attempts to keep staff and accommodate schedules. All of our staff are part-time. Many have second jobs or go to school full-time.



Meeting the Diverse and Unique Needs of Our Families

Planet Kids has worked to develop new policies and procedures in the past few years that take less of a “one sized fits all” approach, and to look at the more individual needs of our families.

While it can be challenging at times to change our approach when considering safety, we make efforts to talk through what might not work for each family and hear their concerns, and we adapt when we can.

It's important to us that everyone feels as comfortable as they can in our space. We keep what activities are possible during visits very open so families can try and mimic what they liked to do together at home.



Community Partnerships

- We have an Advisory Committee that meets at least once a year
 - District and City court Judges, law enforcement, Crime Victim Advocates, prior Planet Kids clients, an individual from Montana Legal Services, YWCA staff members, and other community providers who serve clients effected by domestic violence
- Other partners for our grant include a law group and Domestic Violence Court staff
 - Planet Kids originally was a community response to the increased calls law enforcement was receiving during visitation or exchanges where parties were exchanging and in direct contact. Law enforcement, judges, and area providers came together to meet the need of the community nearly 20 years ago, and the knowledge held among our partners has been important when considering policy changes or adaptations we need to make.
 - In our recent grant, this has also allowed us to partner with a law group to meet legal challenges of clients, and with the new Missoula Domestic Violence Court. As community needs and responses evolve, we continue in a collaborative way to meet those needs together.

Planet Kids Physical Space

Building overview

- Building is leased from another organization who was using the space for respite care until they lost funding
- The space is small and certainly challenging to accommodate all of our needs, but we do the best we can with the space

Safety

- Security cameras located at each entrance, at street parking areas, and throughout the building
 - No sound recording
- Panic buttons located throughout the building
- Mobile panic button for staff to take outside
- No on-site security

Rooms

- One large common area
- Small waiting area for non-custodial parents
- Side room called the “teen room”
 - Room is a bit more private, with activities and toys for older kids and teens
- One restroom
- Small kitchen
 - Families can make meals together
- Office for staff
 - Can also be check-in space

Outdoor space

- Backyard with privacy fencing, allowing families to play outside



Thank you for being part of this tour of Planet Kids Supervised Visitation of YWCA Missoula!

Learn more about us at
www.ywcamissoula.org/services/supervised-visitiation/



Inspire would love to hear your thoughts and input about this Program Spotlight Session 5. Please follow this QR code to our post-event evaluation.



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