

## Awesome Alum!

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Yellowstone County Alumni Series, this month featuring

## Kelley Partridge!

Kelley is a mom of three, local Intuitive Artist, and past Club parent.

This is her story.

Kelley Partridge makes no secret of her story. She is a survivor of sexual assault, has faced a multitude of challenges, and has used her passion for art to heal, create, and help others.

In 2007, Kelley reached a difficult point in her life. While her dream home was being built, she and her three children were staying at her mother's house. Kelley's relationship with her parents has always been a strained one, especially with her father. When Kelley was 15, he sexually assaulted her and it was not until 2007 that she, as a mother, told the truth about what happened in her youth. She did not want her own children to be left alone with him and the possibility of another traumatizing instance. Unfortunately, no one believed her. Her mother kicked her

out, and Kelley and her children needed to find

a place to stay.

Kelley did her best to provide for her children. She was recently fired from her job of seven years and was calling a campsite at Riverside Park home. She turned to strangers and the community for help and discovered the Boys & Girls Clubs of Yellowstone County. The Club found space for her children at the Lockwood Clubhouse, and Kelley could finally take a sigh of relief. Her children had a place to go.





Kelley's healing journey began in 2013, when she took a painting class. She had never painted before, and the instructor took a liking to Kelley and asked that she fill in for her and teach a class on her own. Since then, painting has taken center stage in her life. In 2019, Kelley made the jump to push doubt aside, leave an unfulfilling job, and become a fulltime artist. Her belief: Fear never goes away; it is here to teach. She has harnessed that fear and has strived to do anything she desires. She has attempted various forms of art, including dabbling in oil paints, stood up against her attacker, and has become a successful artist in Billings.

Kelley is incredibly grateful for the peace of mind and safety the Club provided to her children. That period of reassurance allowed her to find a job, secure the completion of their home, and ensure that her children could be kids. Now, Kelley has returned to the Club and uses her passion to give back by leading a painting class for Club members and auctioning artwork to benefit the Club.

Her advice to Club members is to "do it scared." Being uncomfortable is a good thing. "Let the intuition take over and let it reveal the art."

Kelley's goal now is to add "Award Winning Artist" on her resume next to Intuitive Artist, author, and mom of adults.

You can find Kelley's art on her website: KPIA444.com.



If you are a Club alumni or know of anyone that is, we would love to chat! Please email Nicoletta Flores at nflores@bgcyellowstone.org

