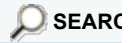




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Boyhood Y members give back with \$350,000 donation

Posted by [Allison Grant](#) | [The Bay City Times](#) October 09, 2008 07:56AM

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Warren Loranger and John Calvin spent their childhood days at the "old Washington Street Y." And it made quite an impression.

"I grew up in the Y," said Loranger, 85, now of Waterford. "I (basically) lived there for my first 18 years and learned basketball and swimming there."

Calvin, 74, and living in Watertown, S.D., has been a member of the Bay Area Family Y since 1941, continuing his membership long after leaving the community.

"Without any question, I grew up in the Y," he said in a written statement.

Now the two men are giving back. The men have given a combined \$350,000 toward the campaign to build a new Bay Area Family Y.

"I think it's tremendous, just a tremendous way of thinking," said Chuck Brooks, executive director and CEO of the Bay Area Family Y. "(Loranger and Calvin) talk about coming to the Y as kids and being part of leadership groups and learning sports. The Y isn't just a place where sports are played, we are also building (a new one) as a way to impact people's lives."

The Bay Area Family Y, 111 North Madison Ave, has raised about \$9.7 million of the \$15.5 million needed to build a new Y between Tenth and 11th streets on Washington Avenue near the Uptown at RiversEdge property. The largest contributor is the Dow Chemical Co., which has pledged \$4 million toward the project. The new Y building will be called the Dow Bay Area Family Y.

Loranger said his life was shaped by the Y's influence.

"I just thought it was a really good reason (to donate)," said Loranger.

Now retired, Loranger left Bay City to spend two years in the Air Force before graduating from University of Detroit Mercy with an architectural engineering degree. Eventually, he owned three Michigan-based companies, including Pella Window and Door Co.

Loranger donated \$250,000 of the \$350,000 after friends told him about the project, knowing how much he is involved in the YMCA organization. Loranger has a YMCA named after him in Englewood, Florida.

"For the past 20 years, I have been in a 'payback' mode," he said.

Calvin is the longest consecutive Bay City YMCA member, according to Fritz Horak, a chairman on the Y Capital Campaign.

The Times could not reach Calvin for comment because he is on a hunting trip with family.

Horak said when he explained the construction project to Calvin, he was happy to help.

"He's just a great guy," said Horak, "It's obviously a very needed amenity in the community from an economic standpoint.

"It should help in springboarding the RiversEdge as well as bringing 1,000 people a day into downtown Bay City."



Courtesy photo

The Bay Area Family Y, 111 North Madison Ave, has raised about \$9.7 million of the \$15.5 million needed to build a new Y - the Dow Bay Area Family Y - between Tenth and 11th streets on Washington Avenue near the Uptown at RiversEdge property.

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Posted by **Laura52** on 10/09/08 at 3:21PM

Gee.. we have a YMCA and a YWCA and wasn't there a Family Y on Euclid a while back? Is it still there or weren't there enough people using it to keep it alive? And why in the heck would 1,000 people a day come here to use this Y? I don't even use the Y here.. I sure wouldn't travel to another town to use one. Just another thing we won't need in this town. There's so much more people need in this town with the money wasted to build a new Y... just like the money wasted on a new library we didn't need. When I asked why, at the old library on Center, that they were building the new one, a gal working there told me there wasn't enough room for all the books and it wasn't wheelchair accessible. Well maybe they should have filtered out a few of the books no one used and sold them and a new entrance could have been built behind the building with an elevator. It would have been much cheaper than building that monstrosity across from the court house that's hardly used anymore. There's an idea.. they could have used 2 floors of the old courthouse for a new library. It's wheelchair accessible. We need anothr Y in this town like we need a hole in the head.

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