

METRO/AREA

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Law firm gives \$150,000

By RON COLQUITT
Press Register Reporter

The law firm of Cunningham Bounds Yance Crowder & Brown has contributed \$150,000 to the YMCA of Metropolitan Mobile's \$1.7 million capital development campaign, according to campaign Chairman John C. Hope III.

That brings the total amount raised by the YMCA board to \$408,000, Hope said.

"The Y has had a number of fund drives over the years, but we have a chance with this one to really break out of the mold, get our debt off our backs and do some new things," Hope said. "And it's an opportunity to grow like the Y never has before. It's a real positive thing."

Larry Batchelor, president of the YMCA of Metropolitan Mobile, said the \$1.7 million will be used to pay off debts incurred as a result of damage to YMCA property by Hurricane Frederic. The money will also pay for a new building at the Chandler Branch of the YMCA.

"The Y has been laboring now for years under a tremendous debt, and that has impaired its ability to provide numerous services that it provides to various segments of our community such as children, disabled individuals and the elderly," according to James A. Yance, a law-firm member who is on the YMCA board. "With the elimination of the debt, it's really going to open the door to expand those programs a great deal.

"For instance, right now they've already expanded the summer day camp for children from three locations to six beginning this summer. And I'm proud to say that one of those locations is the downtown Y."

According to Yance, the downtown YMCA is mainly an adult fitness center, but in recent years it has begun serving the needs of children, the handicapped and elderly people. "We want to do more of that in the future," he said.

Clifton Inge, chairman of the YMCA's solicitation board, said of the law firm's donation, "We appreciate these long-time friends of the YMCA for their tremendous support."

Hope said, "The YMCA is moving strongly now toward the \$1,700,000 needed in this campaign thanks to our close YMCA family giving. Now we are going to the broader community (for donations) so the YMCA can expand and serve more people."

See LAW FIRM, 3B, Col. 1

Law firm

Law firm member Robert T. Cunningham Jr. is a YMCA board member. He said, "All of the partners in our firm are very active Y members, and that's one of the reasons for our (\$150,000) gift. But probably the main reason is we are all aware of what the YMCA does in the community for both children and senior citizens."

Cunningham said his law firm is trying to set an example through its gift, and he is "hoping that the other people who are asked to give will follow our example."

Yance said, "Our senior partner (Richard Bounds) has been an active board member with the Y for many, many years before Robert (Cunningham) and I became active."

According to Hope, the campaign steering committee includes Inge, Bachelor, Joe Bullard, Walter Hovell, Russell Ladd, Blacksher, White-Spinner and Robert J. Williams.

"The efforts of this group and the strong board of the YMCA will achieve the \$1.7 million goal," Hope said. "The beneficiaries of



Press Register photo by Ron Colquitt

The YMCA of Metropolitan Mobile's \$1.7 million capital development campaign is underway, and the law firm of Cunningham Bounds Yance Crowder & Brown has contributed \$150,000. Shown during the check presentation are from left: Robert T. Cunningham Jr. and James A. Yance of the law firm, and Clifton Inge and John C. Hope III, who are involved in the campaign drive.

this program expansion will be thousands of children and adults the YMCA will be able to serve."

He pointed out they still need to

raise \$1,292,000 to reach their \$1.7 million campaign goal and said they hope the community will now pitch in, and the money will be

raised soon.

For more information about the campaign or to make contributions, call 478-7003.