



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT[®]
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

6/12/14

To whom it may concern,

From my first meeting with ORB, I was impressed with their knowledge of the essential elements needed to successfully operate a YMCA. I would strongly recommend ORB to other YMCAs and non profits that are looking at enhancing a current facility or are thinking of building a new one. For as long as it took, and in the case of Cook County it took a few years, ORB listened to the what the community wanted and needed in a new facility and they did everything they could to make sure as many of these requirements were in the new YMCA. Staying on budget was a priority for ORB and they kept the county, steering committee, and YMCA administration informed as to the impact any changes may have on the final budget.

After years of community input and planning, now a very beautiful YMCA is attached to the Cook County High School in Grand Marias and as a result ORB's great work, there are more members of the new Y then there are people that live in the city. ORB can now take pride in knowing that a new state of the art gathering place now exists in a community where this didn't exist before. This new Cook County YMCA is a gleaming facility bursting at the seams with a new excited and energized membership in an area known for its outdoor recreational opportunities. Because of the quality ORB put into this project, Grand Marais may now be known for the northern Minnesota community that has one of the nicest YMCAs in the state.

Again, I would strongly recommend that any YMCA considering an expansion or new facility to consider partnering with ORB management to assist with the design and oversee the construction of the project.

Sincerely,

Chris Francis

President & CEO

Duluth Area Association of YMCAs

**DULUTH AREA FAMILY YMCA
302 W 1st Street, Duluth, MN 55802
P 218 722 4745 F 218 722 4746
WWW.DULUTHYMCA.ORG**