

# PRESS RELEASE

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## Irene Grants Awarded to Two Ward Lumber Employees

Jay, NY: Two grant checks were presented to employees of Ward Lumber in Jay, NY from Lumber Industry for Today (LIFT) on Friday, September 23.

Travis Thwaits and Dustin Frederick, yard employees of 3.5 years and 6 months respectively, both had such significant flooding in their homes that FEMA that the town building inspector declared them uninhabitable. A photo accompanying Travis's application shows massive piles of debris on the front lawn- garbage bags filled with ruined belongings, and heaps of carpeting, fixtures, and drywall. The house appears to have been gutted and it is uncertain whether it can be repaired. Dustin's photos show similar devastating aftermath and floodwaters several feet high through the neighborhood.

LIFT is an industry-specific fund and member benefit established to provide immediate financial assistance and peer support to Northeast Retail Lumber Association (NRLA) member employees impacted by a fire or natural disaster resulting in a loss of shelter. LIFT program brings funds into the Town of Jay and the Adirondacks from the rest of New York and New England from other lumber dealers. Jay Ward, President of Ward Lumber, says "The LIFT program allows Ward Lumber to leverage their contribution which brings funds to our area. Ward Lumber will be donating 25% of the LIFT gift, so the grant program matches Ward Lumber's donation three to one". LIFT will provide up to \$2,000 as a tax free, debt-free gift to a member employee who has a qualifying loss. Use of the gift is at the discretion of the employee for immediate needs such as food, clothing and shelter.

Ward Lumber is a two-unit building materials supplier with locations in Jay and Malone, NY. One of the largest private employers in Essex County, Ward Lumber manages over 6,000 acres of timberland and operates one of New York State's largest white pine sawmills and planing mills.



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