

## SPOTLIGHT ON BUSINESS

**Flooding help**

JAY — Two grant checks were presented to employees of Ward Lumber in Jay from Lumber Industry for Today (LIFT) on Sept. 23.

Travis Thwaites and Dustin Frederick, yard employees of three-and-a-half years and six months respectively, both had such significant flooding in their homes that the town building inspector declared them uninhabitable.

LIFT is an industry-specific fund and member bene-



Employees receive flood aid from Ward Lumber owner Jay Ward.

fit established to provide immediate financial assistance and peer support to Northeast Retail Lumber Association member employees impacted by a fire or natural disaster resulting in a loss of shelter. LIFT 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, said the LIFT program allows Ward Lumber to leverage their contribution. "Ward Lumber will be donating 25 percent of the LIFT gift, so the grant program matches Ward Lumber's donation three to one," he said.

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.