

Joshua Project gets \$11K

By Jim Poole
 Christmas came early for The Joshua Project last week. The organization whose mission is to help those in need received \$11,000 from Arby's on Wednesday. The presentation came at the Cobleskill restaurant on East Main Street. Arby's owners Jack and Lynda Malone credited the restaurant's general managers Connie Flanagan and John Diamond for getting the donation to The Joshua Project. Arby's has a foundation and asks its restaurants in the region to nominate a charity to receive an award. "They did all the legwork," said Ms. Malone said of the general managers, "so it goes back to the community. They took the extra step." Ms. Flanagan picked The Joshua Project because the organization "helped out kids so much."

Middleburgh, The Joshua Project provided free lunches to children in the summer. The thrust is to feed kids who might not get a full meal when school's out. "We did 8,000 lunches through Schoharie County this summer," Mr. Costello said. With several dozen Joshua volunteers on hand and many Arby's employees watching, Ms. Flanagan said Arby's creed is to "play fair, have fun, make a difference, and it's our responsibility to improve the quality of life for our employees and our community." Overwhelmed, Mr. Costello said he was "extremely happy to be here," adding that the \$11,000 would pay for 90 percent of the summer program in 2020. "It's a tremendous relief," he said. "You guys will help us go another year. Thank you." The summer lunch program isn't The Joshua Project's only task. The organization, working



Arby's of Cobleskill co-General Manager Connie Flanagan, left, presents an oversized \$11,000 check from the Arby's Foundation to Pat Costello of The Joshua Project during a ceremony last Wednesday. Arby's employees and many Joshua Project volunteers look on during the presentation.--Photo by Jim Poole.

with other agencies, delivered more than 280 Thanksgiving baskets to needy families in November, then spearheaded

Schoharie County Christmas for Kids, which provides gifts to children who otherwise wouldn't have any.

And, as Mr. Costello stressed, The Joshua Project is an all-volunteer outfit. "We have 150 to 160 volun-

teers working with us every year, and we do have fun," he said, echoing Ms. Flanagan's description of Arby's creed.