



THE CHRONICLE JOURNAL/BRENT LINTON

Ken Chase of the Keri Chase Foundation receives a grant from Paul Wolfe, executive director of the Thunder Bay Community Foundation, during a Tuesday luncheon at the Best Western Nor'Wester Hotel where a total of \$87,000 was presented to more than 20 charitable organizations.

Food banks get support

Community Foundation grants announced

BY BRANDON WALKER
THE CHRONICLE-JOURNAL

A Thunder Bay Community Foundation grant will help the Regional Food Distribution Association get around tight corners.

The RFDA received \$7,345 on Tuesday to purchase an electric pallet jack that will be used to move pallets of food off a truck and around tight turns.

"It can turn on a smaller radius than a forklift," RFDA president Larry Brigham said after the grant was announced during a luncheon held at the Best Western Nor'Wester Hotel.

The electric pallet jack can be used in a transport truck, a walk-in freezer and a walk-in fridge.

"It will be a very effective tool for

us and we're excited about the donation," Brigham said.

The RFDA was given a used forklift by the City of Thunder Bay which will allow pallets to be stacked three high when the new food distribution centre opens on S. Syndicate Street in February.

Brigham said fresh food will be coming from southern Ontario in the next year, something that didn't happen before because the RFDA didn't have a large fridge or freezer.

"The Ontario Association of Food Banks is working very hard to get that kind of food sent instead of canned and processed stuff," Brigham said.

The RFDA also received \$3,000 for the Nipigon and Red Rock food banks, and another \$3,000 for the Pic River Food Bank thanks to high

school students who chose them for Thunder Bay Community Foundation support.

In the last year, the outlying areas around Thunder Bay have been hit hard with a need for more food, Brigham said.

"On average, the outlying areas saw an overall increase in need of about 18 per cent," he said.

"It's probably because of their reliance on the bigger industries out there."

The Lake Superior Centre for Regenerative Medicine received a Community Foundation grant of \$10,000 for its Ground Bone DBM project.

Alpha Court received \$5,000 for its New Horizons Day Treatment Program and the Alzheimer Society of Thunder Bay received \$3,635 for the Caregiver Spiritual Retreat.