



ANYA TIKKA | DEMOCRAT

Eldred Sunshine Library Treasurer Shain Fishman, left, accepts a \$1,000 donation from Chuck Petersheim of Eldred, holding his 3-year-10-month-old son Lucas. It was Petersheim's third such donation in three years.

## *Gets a grand in the books*

BY ANYA TIKKA

ELDRED — The Sunshine Library in Eldred received a boon in the form of a \$1,000 check from the owner of The Catskill Farms, Chuck Petersheim of Eldred.

Board of Directors Treasurer Shain Fishman accepted the check on behalf of the library, which is dependent on donations to function.

"The community is very generous to us," Fishman said while thanking Petersheim for the large donation.

The library has only one paid member of staff, and it's otherwise run by volunteers. Along with its regular fundraising, it's currently selling tickets for a raffle with the prize of a Kindle Touch 3G e-reader. "You have a very good chance of winning," said Fishman, "because we've only printed 200 raffle tickets."

Petersheim, who came to the presentation with his almost 4-year-old son Lucas, commented, "Sullivan County has been very kind to us, so we like to give back as much as we can."

His company is also a regular supporter of the Barryville Chamber of Commerce scholarships, the Eldred Lions Club, NAEL Theater, Barryville Pumpkin Fest, area

fire companies, and the radio station WJFF.

The Sunshine Library serves between 40-50 people daily and offers not only books, but it also has wi-fi access, DVDs, videos, and music. Library members can also request a pass for the Bethel Museum with free access for four people.

Operating days are Tuesday to Saturday from noon until 4:30 p.m., although on Thursdays the closing time is 6 p.m., and on Saturdays at 3 p.m.

Volunteer Arleen Nieke explained that people can order books online, and the library is part of the Ramapo Catskill Library System, allowing patrons to get books from all the libraries in the system.

The Catskill Farms has built and sold about 100 houses in Sullivan County. Petersheim, who hails from Lancaster, PA, attributed the success of his company to the beauty of Sullivan County.

"The people who are still buying and building houses appreciate what you can get for your money in Sullivan County," he said. "It's the perfect mix."

Petersheim moved from New York City to the county right after 9/11.