

Giving continues

□ *Group passes on leftover funds to foundation*

BY JENNIFER SIMMONS
Managing Editor

ROCHELLE — After more than 30 years, the Needy Family Food and Toy Drive committee decided to dissolve the group this year.

What began as a chamber sponsored event in the mid-1980s continued when Jean Tess — a Rochelle Chamber of Commerce director at one time — left her position and took on the task of organizing the yearly event.

“When Jean left her position with the chamber she decided to continue the Needy Family Food and Toy Drive as the chamber was no longer going to sponsor the event,” committee member Dave Waltrip said.

“That was in 1999.”

The committee of Tess, Waltrip, Lois Hultgren (25 years) and Missy King (22 years) took over organizing and coordinating the food and toy drive until this year.

And with the ending of the annual fundraising effort, the committee decided to donate the remainder of funds before completely closing the door to a long-time event.

On Thursday, the committee presented a check in the amount of \$4,142.72 to Rochelle Area Community Foundation’s Cal Jacobs and Jim Tolan with the stipulation that the money be placed in the foundation’s efforts for hunger relief — a fund that has grown to more than \$150,000 since its inception.

Over the years the event



Needy Family Food and Toy Drive committee members presented funds to the Rochelle Area Community Foundation Thursday. The committee decided that they were no longer going to carry on the long-time fundraising event. Pictured are Lois Hultgren, Jim Tolan of the RACF, Cal Jacobs of the RACF, Jean Tess, Missy King and Dave Waltrip. (Photo by Jennifer Simmons)

was strongly supported by the Rochelle Fire Department who accepted and

stored the donations of toys and employees at Rochelle Foods who collected and

wrapped toys from employees each year as well as taking monetary donations

to be used toward the purchase of food for the Needy Family Food and Toy Drive.