## Cannery from page 13A

The cannery was built in 1983 and opened in 1984. The machinery is used and Duhl admits he is 
"always searching the country" for more. Some used equipment 
sits near a door, it will replace a 
temperamental labeling machine 
that can handle up to 600 cans an 
hour . . . when it works, said 
Chris Turner of Ortenville, the 
volunteer distribution manager.

Chris Turner of Ortonville, the volunteer distribution manager. Dubl is the only paid cannery employee. Everyone else who works there is a volunteer. Volun-teers, like Turner, are church members who give of their time to help the community. When the peaches arrive from the church farm in St. Catherines, Ontario, you'll find company CEOs work-ing next to janitors processing the crops.

crops.

The church has 70 canneries nationwide and each is assigned certain tasks. At the Farmington

Hills facility, work revolves around the peaches and cattle. Lost year volunteers produced 1,820 cases of beef, 1,900 cases of thill, 2,100 cases of peaches and 100 cases of peach jam. There are also 102 storchouses throughout the country and a fleet of 45 semi-trailers that move food between them and the main storchouse in Salt Lake City.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Soints has roughly 30,000 members throughout Michigan; church leaders estimate that 5-7 percent receive assistance at any given time. Food orders are tailored to meet the needs of individual families. The storchouse delivers up to \$500,000 in food a year to church members in need.

Most food stuffs, cleaning and dairy products and meats carry the Descret label, produced as

part of the more than 1,000 church welfare projects of the same name. Deseret is a biblical word, meaning honey bee or beehive. A symbol of industry, references to it can be found in founder Joseph Smith's "The Book of Mormon." Tithe of time

Like the cannery, the 8,000-tree orchard is tended to by volunteers. So is the church's sugar-beet farm and cattle ranch west of Saginaw. Church members "don't just believe in tithing with their time," Johannson said.

And it is that time, that volunteer manpower, that the church is offering to the community as a whole. It is the "first real reach-out." in Michigan, according to Richard Thorderson, regional representative.

"The church has been inwardly directed for so long because it has been small; we've used the church's resources to care for our own people," the Livonia resident said. "We teach them to be independent and self-reliant and we had to get to where we were able to help ourselves."

had to get to where we were able to help ourselves."

And help the church does. In cooperation with the Red Cross, all church buildings are available for disaster relief and humaniterian services and members lend a hand where needed as it recently was in south Florida. More than 5,000 church members were there within days of Hurricane Andrew and apent five days helping wherever they could. Disaster trailers, set up to house, feed and clothe 500 people for two weeks, were also sent.

"The biggest things we have to offer to the community is man."

Gleaner's will truck the produce

power . . . people," Johannson said. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints estimates its members donate up to 427,000 hours of work a year, reflecting early church teachings that members "care for their families, the needy and disasters in the Lord's way."

to the cannery where church members will do the canning. The finished product will be shipped to food banks across the state with freight charges being handled by the Michigan Restaurant Association's 7 Percent Solu-tion.

"It's an experimental program

"It's an experimental program this year, but maybe we can expand it many, many times next year," Johannson said.

That's the kind of community service the church would like to see the cannery used for — a church or civic group taking on canning food for food banks.

For more information on the cannery, contact the local Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints stake presidents — David Olson in Oakland County, 540-6276, or Lee Freeman, in Wayne County, 477-5797.



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