



Sixty volunteers from the congregation of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, shown here wearing signature Mormon Helping Hands yellow vests, harvest corn at Peaceful Valley Orchards.

Members of Clinton Twp. church harvest corn for food bank

UNION TWP. — Despite record-breaking temperatures, sixty volunteers from the congregation of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Clinton Township participated in a Day of Service on July 23 at Peaceful Valley Orchard, home of America's Grow-A-Row. They were part of a much larger group of more than 2,500 volunteers who participated in similar projects throughout the tri-state area.

Chip Paillex, founder of America's Grow-A-Row, reported that the group harvested about 6,500 pounds of corn that will be donated

to one of the local food banks and distributed to those in need within the community. In 2010 his organization donated 360,000 pounds of produce with the help of 1,100 different people.

President Stuart Smith, a member of the Clinton congregation and of the Morristown, New Jersey State Presidency which presides over the church in five counties, including Hunterdon, observed, "Today we participated in the 21st century version of the ancient Israelite tradition of gleaning, where inspired landowner/farmers left behind parts of their harvest for the

less fortunate, who, by the sweat of their own brows, were thereby able to meet the needs of their families. We felt blessed today to be able to do the gleaning, but our hats are off to America's Grow-A-Row and commercial farms like Peaceful Valley Orchard, who have so generously perpetuated this beautiful practice."

During the opening ceremony of the activity, Bishop Todd Johnson, leader of the congregation, read a letter of recognition from Gov. Chris Christie. This Day of Service celebrated the 75th anniversary of the Church's welfare pro-

gram. The welfare program of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is not only a way to help members in temporarily difficult circumstances, but it also stresses self-reliance as a way of life, including education, health, employment, family home production and storage, family finances and spiritual strength. The objective of the program is to care for those in need while teaching principles that will not only help those in need become self-reliant, but also retain their self-respect. The aim of the program is to help people help themselves.