

WELFARE SERVICES FACT SHEET—2013

50 East North Temple Street
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Basic Principles of Welfare

- As disciples of Jesus Christ, members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints strive to follow the Savior’s admonition to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, take in the stranger, clothe the naked, and visit the sick and those in prison (see Matthew 25:35–36).
- The responsibility for each person’s spiritual and temporal well-being rests first upon the individual, second upon the individual’s family, and third upon the Church.
- When members and their families are doing all they can to provide for themselves and still cannot meet their basic needs, they may turn to their bishop for temporary assistance.
- The bishop, as a local minister, is in the best position to determine the nature and quantity of help required to meet the individual’s or family’s specific needs.
- Once a month, members of the Church go without food and drink for two consecutive meals and contribute a “fast offering” (or donation) at least equal to the value of the two meals. Bishops then use the fast offerings to care for those in need.
- To assist bishops in helping members become more self-reliant, the Church has established storehouses, farms and ranches, thrift stores, employment centers, and family services offices in many locations. Church members volunteer their time, talents, and skills to do much of the work in these facilities.
- The purpose of Church welfare assistance is to help people to help themselves. Recipients of these resources are given the opportunity to work, to the extent of their ability, for the assistance they receive.
- The Church also sponsors humanitarian relief and development projects around the world that benefit those of other faiths. These projects include emergency relief assistance in times of disaster and programs that strengthen the self-reliance of individuals, families, and communities.
- Hundreds of full-time volunteers with skills and experience in education, agriculture, social work, business, and medicine serve throughout the world to implement these humanitarian projects.

2013 Statistics

Hours of labor donated to Welfare Services projects 4,498,617

Employment and training placements 44,678

Total number of:	
Storehouses	135
Home storage centers	101
Farms and ranches	52
Food and commodity processing facilities	13
Storage and distribution facilities	35
Employment resource centers	117
Deseret Industries thrift stores	42
LDS Family Services offices	88

Full-time and part-time Welfare Services volunteers 11,925

- Examples of volunteer assignments:
- Managing employment centers
 - Improving agricultural and medical practices
 - Leading addiction recovery groups
 - Supervising welfare projects

Emergency Response Projects

The Church completed 103 projects in response to disasters (natural and man-made) in 54 countries in 2013, including:

Philippines	Typhoon and earthquake
Oklahoma	Tornados
Czech Republic, Canada, and Colorado	Flooding
Chad, Turkey, and Jordan	Refugee aid

Humanitarian Initiatives

During 2013 humanitarian assistance was provided in 140 countries through the following initiatives:

Clean Water and Sanitation	37 countries	563,251 beneficiaries
Wheelchair	55 countries	65,514 beneficiaries
Vision	34 countries	88,796 beneficiaries
Neonatal Resuscitation Training	37 countries	27,584 beneficiaries
Benson Food	20 countries	34,500 beneficiaries
Immunization	12 countries	Participated in 18 awareness campaigns that helped 9.9 million people become immunized