

WELFARE SERVICES FACT SHEET—2012

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THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

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 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.

2012 Statistics

Days of labor donated to Church welfare facilities	863,344
Employment and training placements	56,228
Total number of:	
Storehouses	143
Home storage centers	101
Farms and ranches	50
Food processing facilities	13
Storage and distribution facilities	35
Employment resource centers	117
Deseret Industries thrift stores	42
LDS Family Services offices	85

Number of missionaries serving in Welfare Services 9,153

Examples of missionary assignments

- Managing employment centers
- Teaching English as a second language
- Teaching marriage and parenting skills
- Improving agricultural and medical practices
- Distributing clothing
- Supervising welfare projects and missionaries

Emergency Response Projects

The Church responded to 104 disasters (natural and man-made) in 52 countries in 2012. Examples of 2012 emergency situations include Hurricane Sandy off the northeast coast of the United States; Cyclone Washi, which struck the Philippines late in the season; civil unrest and the refugee crisis in Syria; ongoing relief for the East Africa famine; and the earthquake and tsunami in Japan.

Humanitarian Initiatives

During 2012 humanitarian assistance was provided in 139 countries through the following initiatives:

Clean Water/Sanitation	36 countries	890,000 beneficiaries
Wheelchair	57 countries	70,000 beneficiaries
Vision	25 countries	75,000 beneficiaries
Neonatal Resuscitation Training		
	40 countries	28,000 beneficiaries
Food	27 countries	160,000 beneficiaries
Immunization	12 countries	8 million beneficiaries

Assistance is rendered without regard to race, religious affiliation, or nationality and is based on the core principles of personal responsibility, community support, self-reliance, and sustainability.