Basic Principles

- 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 himself, second upon his 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, production projects, 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 as part of these humanitarian projects.

2011 Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Days of labor donated to Church welfare facilities</td>
<td>872,721</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment and training placements</td>
<td>147,855</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Storehouses</td>
<td>143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home storage centers</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Production projects</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Processing facilities</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Storage and distribution facilities</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment resource centers</td>
<td>327</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deseret Industries thrift stores</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LDS Family Services offices</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of missionaries serving in Welfare Services</td>
<td>9,832</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Recent examples

- Japan earthquake and tsunami relief 2011
- Haiti earthquake relief 2010
- Chile earthquake relief 2010
- Pakistan flooding relief 2010
- Samoa tsunami relief 2009
- Philippines typhoon relief 2009
- Indonesia earthquake relief 2009
- Ethiopia famine relief 2008
- Peru earthquake relief 2007–2009

Humanitarian assistance rendered (1985–2011) $1.4 billion

Countries and territories served 179

More information is available at providentliving.org.