

WELFARE SERVICES FACT SHEET—2011

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THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

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

Days of labor donated to Church welfare facilities	872,721
Employment and training placements	147,855
Total number of:	
Storehouses	143
Home storage centers	101
Production projects	54
Processing facilities	19
Storage and distribution facilities	36
Employment resource centers	327
Deseret Industries thrift stores	43
LDS Family Services offices	85
Number of missionaries serving in Welfare Services	9,832

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

Number of major disaster assistance efforts (1985–2011)	202
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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.