



## CARING FOR THOSE IN NEED

---

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

*of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*



---

# Contents

- 3 A Message from the First Presidency
- 4 Our Covenant Commitment
- 5 The Law of the Fast and the Lord's Storehouse
- 6 Summary of Efforts
- 8 At a Glance

## **MINISTERING TO THOSE IN NEED**

- 10 Ministering
- 12 Caring for Our Neighbors
- 14 Children and Youth

## **ANXIOUSLY ENGAGED**

- 16 JustServe

## **CALLED TO SERVE**

- 20 Welfare and Self-Reliance Missionaries
- 22 Self-Reliance Course Facilitators
- 24 Family Services Counselors and Facilitators

- 25 Deseret Industries
- 26 Service and Proselytizing Missionaries
- 28 Transitional Services

## **WORLDWIDE AID**

- 30 Food Security and Nutrition
- 32 Clean Water and Sanitation
- 34 Education
- 36 Healthcare and Disability

## **EMERGENCY RESPONSE**

- 40 Emergency Response
- 43 Blood Drives
- 44 Food Production and Distribution

## **THANK YOU**

## **REFERENCES**

*Cover Image: Young Church members work together on a community service project in Cusco, Peru.*



Above: During his Latin America ministry in 2019, President Russell M. Nelson attended a wheelchair distribution event in Argentina.

**DEAR FRIENDS,**

*Caring for those in need is both a duty and a joyful privilege for followers of Jesus Christ. As members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, we commit to living the two great commandments: to love God and to love our neighbor (see Matthew 22:37–39). As a Church, we are blessed to have the ability, global connections, and resources to follow His admonition.*

*We are pleased to provide this annual report on various facets of our work to care for God’s children. We are grateful for the selfless and faithful offerings of Church members and friends who make this possible. We invite all to join in being “anxiously engaged in a good cause” as we continue to strengthen one another through service (Doctrine and Covenants 58:27).*

*May the Lord continue to bless this work of loving our neighbor.*

*The First Presidency*

*Russell M. Nelson  
Dallin H. Oaks  
Henry B. Eyring*

## OUR COVENANT COMMITMENT



*“They who are willing to be called the Lord’s people ‘are willing to bear one another’s burdens, . . . to mourn with those that mourn; . . . and [to] comfort those that stand in need of comfort.’”*

—PRESIDENT RUSSELL M. NELSON  
President of The Church of Jesus Christ  
of Latter-day Saints<sup>1</sup>

As followers of Jesus Christ, members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints have a covenant commitment to live the two great commandments: to love God and to love our neighbor. We follow Jesus Christ’s call to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, take in the stranger, clothe the naked, and visit the sick and afflicted.

Church and individual efforts to care for those in need have been central to our mission from the beginning. In 1842, the Relief Society was organized with a charge to care for the poor and minister to their needs. In 1936, the Church created the welfare program to help care for members in need and strengthen their ability to become self-reliant. And in 1985, the Church’s global humanitarian outreach was formally initiated.

Church members seek out those in need and render aid to all of God’s children without regard to religious affiliation, race, or nationality. The Church, its members, and its friends have combined their donations with volunteer efforts to relieve suffering and build self-reliance around the world.

**THE TWO GREAT COMMANDMENTS** also show us that we are loved by God and our neighbor. Both those who give and those who receive are blessed as they strengthen one another. At certain times in our lives, we might find ourselves as givers, and, at other times, as receivers.

As part of the Lord's way to provide for His children, Church members have the opportunity to fast for a 24-hour period each month and generously donate the value of the meals missed for the benefit of those in need. Local leaders use these funds to help meet needs for food, clothing, housing, or other necessities within their congregations and communities.

---

*“The Lord has given us . . . a simple commandment with a wonderful promise for those in need and for us. It is the law of the fast.”*

—PRESIDENT HENRY B. EYRING  
Second Counselor in the First Presidency<sup>2</sup>

---



In addition, all the resources available to the Church to help those in need are called the Lord's storehouse. These include members' offerings of time, talents, compassion, materials, and financial resources. In local communities, leaders can often help individuals and families find solutions to their needs by drawing on the knowledge, skills, and service offered by congregants, and there is beauty in this process.

### SERVING A FRIEND IN NEED

At any time in our lives, we might find ourselves both contributing to and benefiting from the Lord's storehouse. A local bishop in the United States shared how the consecrated means and efforts of members benefited Miriam,\* a woman in their congregation, and how Miriam's willingness to ask for help blessed those who were able to serve her. Miriam is very private and hesitant to involve others in the difficult parts of her life, so she had been reluctant to ask for help. But the ministering couple assigned to her regularly sought her out, and when they checked in on Miriam one day, they found that she had been unable to get out of her chair for two days. The couple took action and worked with Miriam to provide support in a way she was comfortable with.

Through the direction of the bishop and coordination with Miriam's ministering couple, Miriam allowed a small group of additional members to help her. These members and friends have become a part of her care team. They are people with whom she feels comfortable being open and speaking honestly. Through the Lord's storehouse and fast-offering assistance, Miriam received food, medical supplies, and transportation to and from medical appointments. But beyond the temporal assistance, Miriam is now a part of a network of compassionate friends who care for one another through their ongoing challenges.

*\*Name changed*

## SUMMARY OF EFFORTS

*“I believe that for every disciple of Jesus Christ, this is part of our DNA, that we go and find those that are in need and try to help them, whether it is in our own community or far away in other countries. This is really at the center of our religion.”*

—BISHOP GÉRALD CAUSSÉ, PRESIDING BISHOP<sup>3</sup>

**3,909**

**HUMANITARIAN  
PROJECTS IN 2021**

**\$ 906,000,000**

**IN EXPENDITURES**

**6,800,000**

**HOURS VOLUNTEERED**

**188**

**COUNTRIES AND  
TERRITORIES SERVED**





## \$906 million

*was expended to help those in need through:*

- **FAST-OFFERING ASSISTANCE**, which provides temporary financial help to those in need.
- **BISHOPS' ORDERS FOR GOODS**, including giving food and commodities from bishops' storehouses and Deseret Industries stores to those in need.
- **HUMANITARIAN PROJECTS**, including charitable relief in communities across the world.
- **DONATED COMMODITIES**, including Church-produced goods provided to communities through food banks and other agencies.
- **DONATED CLOTHING**, including discounted or free apparel given to Deseret Industries.
- **CHURCH OPERATIONS**, including Family Services counseling, employment centers, farms and food-processing facilities, and Deseret Industries.



*Volunteers contributed more than*

## 6.8 million hours

*of service through:*

- **SERVICE AT CHURCH FACILITIES**, such as farms, orchards, canneries, Deseret Industries stores, and more.
- **MISSIONS TO CARE FOR THOSE IN NEED**, including volunteer service in 85 countries around the world.
- **CHURCH-SPONSORED COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS**, including cleanup after natural disasters.

*In addition, JustServe facilitated over 41,000 volunteer projects (including 21,500 new projects).*

## ANXIOUSLY ENGAGED

*JustServe*

**62,000**

New local community volunteers registered through JustServe

**21,500**

New volunteer projects created



## CALLED TO SERVE

*Missionaries and Member Volunteers*

**11,329**

Welfare and self-reliance missionaries and long-term volunteers

**9,054**

Deseret Industries associates served



**2,800**

Addiction Recovery Program meetings per week in 30 countries and 17 languages

**137,458**

Participants in self-reliance groups

## WORLDWIDE AID

*Global Humanitarian Initiatives*

**104**

Food security projects worldwide

**Over 600,000**

Students served



**1.74 million**

People helped through clean water and sanitation projects

**135**

Mobility projects in 57 countries and territories

## EMERGENCY RESPONSE

*Disaster Relief*

**199**

Emergency response projects in 61 countries and territories

**585**

COVID-19 projects in 76 countries and territories



**Over 105,000**

Individual donors at Church-sponsored blood drives



# Ministering to Those in Need

*“Sometimes we think we have to do something grand and heroic to ‘count’ as serving our neighbors. Yet simple acts of service can have profound effects on others—as well as on ourselves.”*

PRESIDENT JEAN B. BINGHAM, RELIEF SOCIETY GENERAL PRESIDENT<sup>4</sup>





*Members of the Church receive assignments to minister to individuals or families in their congregation. Ministering allows members of the Church to perform simple acts of service and love for others as the Savior did during His mortal ministry.*

*Ministering looks different from person to person and is highly individualized. Members are encouraged to prayerfully seek guidance from the Spirit to know how to meet the needs of those to whom they minister.*

*We hope that as we serve our fellow men, we can give “the God and Father of us all a helping hand with His staggering task of answering prayers, providing comfort, drying tears, and strengthening feeble knees” (Elder Jeffrey R. Holland, Quorum of the Twelve Apostles).<sup>5</sup>*

---

## Ministering

**DURING CHRIST’S MINISTRY ON THE EARTH,** He showed by example how to love and serve others. As members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, we strive to follow His example by ministering to those around us.

---

**IN 2021,** approximately 200 Church members responded to a call for help, traveling to centers in Germany, the United States, and more locations to help process some 55,000 individuals who had fled Afghanistan. Many volunteers stayed at these centers for more than 10 days, others stayed as long as 30 days, and some stayed even longer. Church members met the immediate needs of individuals seeking refuge by providing food, clothes, and other supplies. Some of the Relief Society sisters in Germany noticed that the Afghan women were using their husbands’ shirts to cover their heads instead of their traditional head coverings, which had been lost or damaged in the frenzy at the airport. These Relief Society sisters gathered together to sew traditional Muslim clothing for these women in need.

---

**ANNE,** a member of the Church in the Philippines, delivered her baby through an emergency Caesarean section in a city where she didn’t know anyone. Unknown to her at the time, the local branch president called the Relief Society sisters of the area to help. Anne and her family were met by strangers, who washed her baby’s clothes, brought extra clothes, and cooked them meals. Because the members rose up to minister to her family, Anne’s needs were met, and she was able to feel God’s love better during a difficult time.

---

**IN ADDITION** to carrying out ministering assignments and meeting the immediate needs of others within their own communities, members of the Church strive to be more Christlike through random acts of kindness. A few months after Carol lost her sister at the age of 39, her coworker Dee provided a meal large enough for Carol and her extended family. Dee recognized that what Carol needed was more time with her family and provided her a meal for them to enjoy together.



*“When we are engaged in service to others, we think less about ourselves.”*

— PRESIDENT HENRY B. EYRING  
Second Counselor in the First Presidency<sup>6</sup>



**Bottom Left:** At Ramstein Air Base in Germany, volunteers sort donations for individuals fleeing conflict in Afghanistan.



*Service is a core pillar of our beliefs—both as an organization and as a people. Like Jesus Christ, we strive to bless the lives of others through unselfish service. Church members serve in their communities by fulfilling roles within their local congregations, participating in service projects, and prayerfully seeking opportunities to serve their neighbors.*

*Like the Good Samaritan, we believe the definition of “neighbor” extends beyond those in our immediate vicinity. We aim to help anyone in need—regardless of their location, race, nationality, gender, or religious and political beliefs.*

---

## Caring For Our Neighbors

“**THE SAVIOR ‘WENT ABOUT DOING GOOD’** (Acts 10:38),” says Sister Curriden, a volunteer at the welcome center for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in east Las Vegas. “He blessed [people’s] lives temporally as well as spiritually. That really feels like our mission—to do His work and follow the Spirit and to love people in His name.”<sup>7</sup>

---

**SISTER CURRIDEN AND HER HUSBAND** serve their community by helping people who have recently immigrated find access to legal services, improve their English, and work on paths to citizenship, so they can obtain better jobs and improve their lives. They are just two of thousands of Church members worldwide who volunteered their time, talents, energy, and resources to service within their communities in 2021.

---

**CHURCH MEMBERS FROM AUSTRALIA TO WEST AFRICA** participated in community clean-up and beautification projects—planting trees, cleaning up local parks, and more. As part of one such project, members of the Church in West Africa participated in the 2021 All Africa Service Day initiative by planting 15,000 tree seedlings in Ghana.

---

**IN BOLIVIA**, the Relief Society sisters of the Los Andes Stake collected 34,000 plastic caps to support the Niño Feliz initiative, which helps low-income children with cancer receive chemotherapy treatments. And members of the Khovd branch in Mongolia visited their local Violence Victims’ Shelter to donate warm blankets, newborn supplies, and hygiene kits.



**Above:** Church members in Ghana organize to plant 15,000 seedlings for the 2021 All Africa Service Day.



*Above:* Church members in Auckland, New Zealand, collaborate with other community organizations to weed gardens and beautify their community.

*“Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.”*

—MATTHEW 22:39

---

**MEMBERS OF THE ERIMA WARD IN FRENCH POLYNESIA** collaborated with the city of Arue to set up a training course to help community members to learn how to sew. This allowed the participants to produce clothes for themselves and baby blankets for new mothers.

---

**IN COLOMBIA**, members of the Villa Colombia Stake in Cali came together to help a local community that had been affected by winter rains. In addition to making and donating blankets, they coordinated a service activity to deliver them to residents of the affected neighborhood.

---

**IN BOTH SOUTH KOREA AND CANADA**, members worked to deliver fans, air conditioners, and other necessities to the elderly. These supplies made a significant difference in the comfort and safety of vulnerable seniors, many of whom were isolated due to COVID-19 restrictions.

---

**ADRIANA**, the communication director for the Montreal Quebec Stake, summed up the willingness of members to serve by saying, “We can make a difference in a person’s life by following the example of our Lord Jesus Christ and reaching out—safely—to those in need; for we know well that it is ‘by small and simple things that great things are brought to pass’”(see *Alma 37:6*).<sup>8</sup>



*In 2020, a new personal development program for youth was started to help young men and young women develop their sacred personal potential. In the Children and Youth program, young people are encouraged to engage in service and be active in their communities.*

*Children and youth have opportunities to plan service activities and choose the goals and projects they want to work on with the help of adult leaders and family members. These activities are meant to help children and youth in the Church grow to be more like the Savior and develop socially, spiritually, physically, and intellectually.*

*“[Our youth and children] have the capacity to be smarter and wiser and have more impact on the world than any previous generation!”*

—PRESIDENT RUSSELL M. NELSON  
President of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints<sup>9</sup>

---

## Children and Youth

**IN THE LAST YEAR**, the children and youth of the Church have been actively serving their communities around the world. Young people participate in service through activities organized by their local youth groups as well as by following their own personal inspiration.

---

**ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2021**, youth from 40 stakes in the United Kingdom and Ireland participated in a day of service. Activities ranged from collecting and delivering supplies for food banks to making flash cards to help people who are refugees learn English.

---

**IN 2021**, many youth around the world participated in the Church’s Light the World with Love campaign. As part of the initiative, adult leaders in Ecuador taught young women how to knit, and they were able to make 43 scarves in three months for their local nursing home.

---

**IN ADDITION** to activities organized by the Church, families are encouraged to plan service opportunities at home. The Andrews family in Alberta, Canada, organized members of their community to clean up a trash-strewn field by their home. Five-year-old Preston came up with the idea, and his four siblings helped carry out the project.

---

**CHELSEA**, a young member of the Church, decided to carry out a personal project when the COVID-19 pandemic hit. She collected stories about how COVID changed people in her community, published them in a book, then donated the proceeds to her local foodbank. It was enough for the foodbank to buy a delivery truck, allowing them (and Chelsea) to positively impact many lives in her community.



# Anxiously Engaged

---

*“It would be impossible to calculate the amount of service that Latter-day Saints render around the globe every day of every year.”*

PRESIDENT RUSSELL M. NELSON, PRESIDENT OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS<sup>10</sup>





**Above:** Volunteers from a Church congregation in Kaysville, Utah gather firewood from storm-impacted areas. The firewood was then delivered to residents of the Navajo Nation.

## JustServe

- 62,000 new local community volunteers registered
- 21,500 new projects created
- 2,500 new organizations registered

---

**THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS** believes everyone should be actively involved in their communities. By serving others, we become more unified and foster peace among people, cultures, and faiths.

Since the onset of the pandemic, JustServe—a community service platform operated by the Church—has provided organizations with the ability to add remote service activities that can be accomplished from anywhere. Through its 10 years of existence, JustServe has seen over 660,000 volunteers register for more than 130,000 projects. These projects have been posted by 13,500 nonprofit, government, religious, and community organizations.

JustServe projects provide community support and lead to interfaith collaboration. Not only are these efforts a display of love and caring but they also shape both givers and receivers. While community service often takes place organically as opportunities arise, JustServe also provides organized projects that allow community members to volunteer and help those in need.

During 2021, thousands of projects were added to the platform, with an average of nearly seven organiza-

tions joining the platform each day. Among the most notable was a project in Beaverton, Oregon, where members of The Church of Jesus Christ worked with members of the Bilal Masjid Mosque to collect over 500 pounds of trash. The project allowed individuals to beautify their city and establish friendships with those of other faith traditions.

In Layton, Utah, a local Relief Society leader coordinated with the St. Mary Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church of Utah to serve together on the 9/11 day of service. Members of both congregations assembled more than 10,000 food packs for local schoolchildren while establishing friendships between the two groups.

And in Schaumburg, Illinois, volunteers converted a church building into an approved food processing facility so they could package and distribute food to those in need. After posting the opportunity on JustServe, the project received 356 volunteers from multiple faiths, who packed 85,538 meals. The effort will feed 234 children in Haiti and the Philippines for an entire year.

---

*“When we serve together, we realize that our similarities are stronger than our differences.”*

—PRESIDENT M. RUSSELL BALLARD  
Acting President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles<sup>11</sup>

---





**Bottom Left:** The "Feed Utah" food drive collected thousands of food donations from around the state in less than a day.



**Top Left:** Volunteers work alongside others to remove debris caused by Hurricane Ida at the First United Methodist Church in Hammond, Louisiana.

### A COMMUNITY UNITED IN SERVICE

After thousands fled Afghanistan in late 2021, the Tri-Valley community near Pleasanton, California, responded to a call from the International Rescue Committee (IRC) for 50 kitchen kits. Local volunteers, including various community and religious organizations, worked together to create a flyer and an Amazon “wish list,” with items such as pots, pans, and utensils. The service opportunity was then posted on the JustServe website to gain visibility.

On the first day, 115 items were purchased, and all 500 requested items were acquired within five days. Because of this, the community decided to increase their contribution to 70 kits. In just one week, over 700 items were

purchased—a value of more than \$11,000. Once the items had arrived, a group of volunteers assembled the kits and loaded them into vehicles. Everything was delivered to the IRC within three weeks of the request.

During the project, volunteer Dena noticed that one of the delivery men was awed by the number of packages being delivered to her home. Dena explained that she was helping with a collection drive for the IRC. The man then told Dena that he and his family came from Afghanistan to the United States in 2003 and benefited from the same kitchen kit program. He expressed his humble appreciation and asked that she pass on his gratitude to everyone involved.

# Called to Serve

*“Our individual efforts don’t necessarily require money or faraway locations; they do require the guidance of the Holy Spirit and a willing heart to say to the Lord, ‘Here am I; send me.’”*

SISTER SHARON EUBANK, FIRST COUNSELOR IN THE RELIEF SOCIETY GENERAL PRESIDENCY<sup>12</sup>





*While many members of the Church serve within their own families, congregations, and communities, some choose to devote even more of their time to humanitarian work by serving a full-time welfare and self-reliance mission.*

*These devoted volunteers fill a variety of roles within the Church's self-reliance and humanitarian initiatives. Depending on their assignment, they may provide employment coaching, help those in need to transition to more stable living environments, supervise humanitarian projects, and even manage Church-owned farms and other facilities.*

---

## Welfare and Self-Reliance Missionaries

**WELFARE AND SELF-RELIANCE MISSIONARIES** of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are instrumental in the Church's efforts to help those who seek a better life. These faithful members often assist in coordinating, implementing, and monitoring humanitarian initiatives around the world.

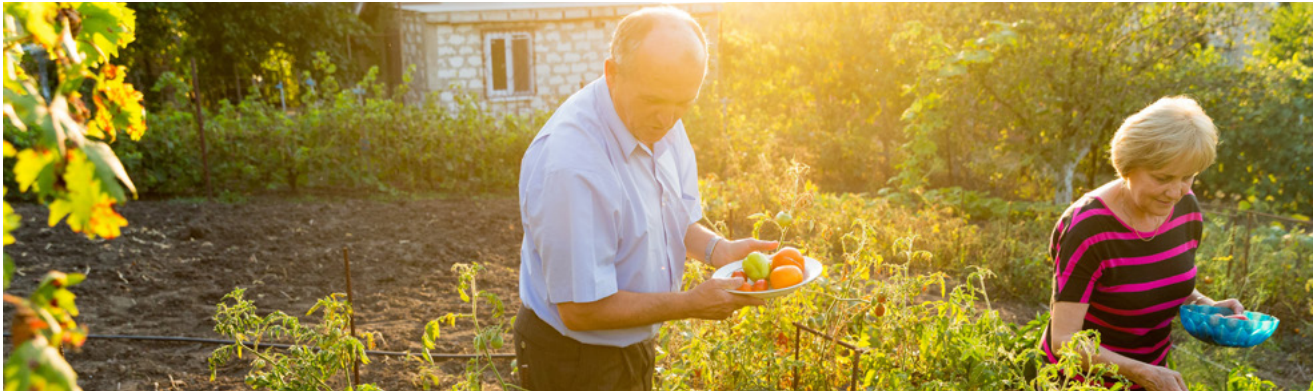
---

**ELDER AND SISTER NISH**, for example, played an important role in delivering 980 wheelchairs and 1,166 walking aids to those in need in the Eastern Cape of South Africa. In addition to monitoring rural outreach clinics, the couple was able to help the Eastern Cape Department of Health identify and eliminate inefficiencies within the delivery process. As a result, the wait for wheelchairs was greatly reduced, and children and adults with disabilities have been able to enjoy greater independence.

---

**WELFARE AND SELF-RELIANCE MISSIONARIES** also assist with the Church's goals to help those in need to achieve self-reliance. In south-east London, Elder and Sister Miller served at the Church's Friendship Centre, which aims to help individuals who are fleeing war, persecution, and natural disasters. The Millers coordinated volunteers, local government agencies, and other nonprofit groups to help these vulnerable individuals meet friends, learn skills, connect with counseling and legal assistance, and work toward integration in their new community.





*“Every person who has made covenants with God has promised to care about others and serve those in need.”*

—PRESIDENT RUSSELL M. NELSON  
President of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints<sup>13</sup>

**AS PART OF ANOTHER EFFORT TO PROMOTE SELF-RELIANCE,**

Elder and Sister Ellingson managed the Church-owned Laie Hawaii Farm, where over 310 families grow crops to support their households. The Ellingsons helped clear land, prepared soil for planting, and taught basic farming skills. Their work has helped many food-vulnerable people in Hawaii to support themselves during a time when jobs have been scarce due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

---

**SIMILARLY, ELDER AND SISTER BROCK** collaborated with Taiwan Technical Mission and the Ministry of Environment and Land Development in Kiribati to help local residents learn how to grow nutritionally-rich, sustainable gardens. One aim of this effort is to promote dietary practices that will help decrease the incidence of diabetes.

---

**ELDER AND SISTER HUSKINSON** also helped to facilitate the Church’s member welfare program in the Cebu area of the Philippines. Thanks to their efforts, four families were given two piglets each, along with feed, technical support, and assistance starting their own vegetable gardens. The project helped these families to become self-reliant, learn new skills, and improve their quality of life.

---

*The Nishes, Millers, Ellingsons, Brocks, and Huskinsons are just a few of more than 7,300 full and part-time welfare and self-reliance missionaries serving in 68 countries worldwide.*



## Self-Reliance Course Facilitators

- 14,984 self-reliance groups
- 137,458 participants
- 2,658 recorded job placements in the US and Canada
- Over 400 employment missionaries

---

**THE CHURCH FACILITATES** self-reliance programs and resources to help individuals find employment, become financially secure, gain educational opportunities, and build emotional strength.

These efforts are aided by missionaries and other volunteers, who facilitate self-reliance groups and employment coaching in 144 countries worldwide. Group participants increased by 16 percent in 2021, with a 31 percent growth in the number of individuals seeking help with employment, education, personal finances, or starting a business.

One new offering in 2021 was a course on emotional resilience. The new manual and videos for *Finding Strength in the Lord: Emotional Resilience* are available to help members and friends of the faith alike. The course focuses on developing healthy thinking patterns, managing stress and anxiety, understanding sadness and depression, and overcoming anger. The goal is to build up participants' emotional resilience, so they are better prepared to face life's challenges.

In addition to these courses, individuals seeking employment can get help improving their job

search and interview skills. They can also enjoy job coaching and online workshops. This work resulted in thousands of individuals finding new or better employment in 2021.

One such individual was Joseph, an engineer with a master's degree in aerospace engineering from Arizona State University. After graduating, Joseph struggled to find a job. Several unsuccessful interviews later, Joseph agreed to visit his local Employment Resource Services center, and he began meeting regularly with employment service missionaries for one-on-one coaching. He went through the active job search program and got a job offer as a rocket scientist within two months.



---

*“Inspiring citizens to solve their own problems with a little bit of external help is possible. We know that the solution will not be the same everywhere, but we know that the basic principles can apply.”*

—SISTER REYNA I. ABURTO  
Second Counselor in the Relief Society General Presidency<sup>14</sup>

---

For those who struggle with barriers to employment, development counseling is available through Deseret Industries. This program helps individuals to make goals and to determine a plan to get the education and experience necessary to achieve those goals. As part of the program, participants receive training and real-life work experience in Church-owned thrift stores.



#### **A GOAL TO SERVE**

After Michael sold his business, he continued working for the new owner until he was eventually laid off. He found another job, but things didn't work out, and he left.

Michael sank into a deep depression and was admitted to the mental health unit at his local hospital. His doctor advised him to enter the internship program at Deseret Industries. Michael began working with a development counselor and job coach. She provided counseling and help in setting a goal to serve a mission with his wife.

With time, Michael was able to achieve his goal, and he and his wife are currently serving as missionaries at the Palmyra New York Temple.

#### **STRENGTHENING FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS**

As part of the emotional resilience program in 2021, the Africa West Area held an online conference for all members, titled “Fostering Emotional Resilience in the Youth.” In attendance was a young woman with her mother.

Before the conference, the young woman and her mother had had a tumultuous relationship. The mother would use harsh, degrading words toward her daughter.

After the conference, the young woman reported that, due to the skills taught at the conference, her mother's behavior toward her had improved markedly. This change provided a significant boost to the young woman's self-esteem and confidence.



## Family Services Counselors and Facilitators

- 2,800 Addiction Recovery Program meetings per week in 30 countries and 17 languages
- 304,405 people served
- 189,994 family, group, individual, and marriage counseling sessions

---

**THE CHURCH'S FAMILY SERVICES** organization helps leaders care for individuals with social and emotional challenges by providing resources and consultation.

One important focus for Family Services is the Church's Addiction Recovery Program (ARP), which provides support and a safe place for anyone working to overcome a compulsive behavior. The free program is made up of support groups that follow a 12-step approach. The program is built

within a gospel-centered framework that connects with the Savior Jesus Christ and recognizes Him as the source of healing. The Addiction Recovery Program is facilitated by ARP volunteers around the world, and anyone—regardless of their religious belief—is welcome to participate.

In addition to ARP services, Family Services offers counseling to people in a variety of circumstances. These include members, missionaries, and prospective parents. Therapists can consult with Church leaders on how best to help members within their area. They also conduct family, group, and marriage counseling sessions.

### A LIFE CHANGED FOR GOOD

After struggling with a pornography addiction on his own for 50 years without progress, John\* attended an ARP meeting in an effort to address his compulsive behavior. The ARP meeting, he said, changed his life. John turned his life over to the Lord, attended ARP meetings, and worked to complete the 12-step program.

While he was still attending ARP meetings, John felt a desire to serve as a volunteer in the ARP

program to give back for what he had received. Despite his own doubts, John told his bishop about his goal. Soon after, he received a volunteer assignment. He has been serving in the ARP program for four years, which has allowed him to continue on his path of sobriety while helping others change their lives.

*\*Name changed*





## Deseret Industries

- 9,054 associates served
- 58,981,915 pounds of goods recycled
- 39,835 furniture items manufactured
- 137 service missionaries

---

**IN 1938**, the Church established Deseret Industries (DI) as a means of building capability within people who seek greater self-reliance.

To accomplish this goal, Deseret Industries operates 45 thrift stores across eight states. Donations and new furnishings (produced through Deseret Manufacturing) allow individuals to affordably purchase necessities. Those in need who are referred by bishops may also receive clothing and essential household items free of charge.

DI further supports self-reliance through its employment program. This program helps individuals struggling with employment barriers to build skills, receive work-readiness training, and benefit from on-the-job coaching, so they can eventually move on to successful long-term careers.

DI also administers community grants to allow approved nonprofit organizations to acquire goods at no cost for use in local communities. In 2021, DI administered 270 such community grants.

Finally, DI supports the Church's worldwide humanitarian efforts through its Humanitarian Center, where unsold donations are sorted and distributed where they are most needed.

Church members and missionaries play an important role in DI's mission. In addition to donating items to their local DI stores, Church members and service missionaries volunteered 122,841 hours.

### **BECOMING WHOLE AGAIN**

Neal was working in corporate sales when he lost his job suddenly in March of 2020. He came to Deseret Industries seeking employment, but he considered it a stopgap solution. Over time, however, Neal began to notice how his new job was changing his life.

"Working at Deseret Industries showed me how to incorporate the love of Christ into my everyday working life," said Neal. "I learned patience, dili-

gence, humility, respect, compassion, perseverance, and dignity. They put a broken man back together, and there aren't really words for the amount of gratitude a person can have for that."



*The Church's missionary program gives members the opportunity to offer meaningful service—both locally and throughout the world.*

*Service missionaries serve part-time for 6–24 months. They organize and participate in service projects within their local communities. Service missionaries may also be called upon to assist with local humanitarian projects.*

*Proselytizing missionaries serve full-time for 18–24 months, and they may be assigned to minister nearly anywhere in the world. While these missionaries focus on teaching about the Savior, they also participate in service projects as part of their ministry. They may also be called upon to assist in emergency response initiatives in their assigned areas.*

---

## Service and Proselytizing Missionaries

**“AS MISSIONARIES,** we always love having service opportunities because it allows us to help others like Christ did,” says Sister McQueen, a full-time missionary serving in New Zealand.<sup>15</sup>

In 2021, Sister McQueen was able to participate in several service projects as part of her missionary service—including an opportunity to help fill a shipping container with schoolbooks and furniture. These items were ultimately shipped to students in Fiji, where numerous schools had been damaged by cyclones.

---

**MISSIONARIES ARE OFTEN CALLED** upon to serve in humanitarian projects within their assigned areas. In Melbourne, Australia, for example, missionaries worked together to unload and organize Christmas presents that had been donated to families in need. Likewise, missionaries in Cape Verde helped deliver food baskets to 70 hungry families.

---

**LOCAL COMMUNITY PROJECTS** may also benefit from missionary involvement. In Guatemala City, missionaries joined in the “Pintemos la 8ª calle” event, where they painted building facades as part of a public space renovation initiative. Meanwhile in Guam, missionaries engaged in weekly cleanups to help beautify the environment.





*“Much can be learned from miraculous outcomes brought through the simple application of simple gospel principles.”*

—ELDER GARY E. STEVENSON  
Quorum of the Twelve Apostles<sup>16</sup>

**IN THE EVENT** of natural disasters and other emergencies, local service and proselytizing missionaries volunteer their time and energy to help those in need. For example, 2021 saw massive flooding in parts of Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, and Switzerland. Within days, more than 60 missionaries had been dispatched to affected areas, where they sorted donated goods and cleared mud and debris from homes and schools. Over the next several months, missionaries gave over 12,000 hours of service, leading to many locals calling them “Engel unterwegs”—angels on the way.

**MISSIONARIES ALSO OFFER** their time assisting in humanitarian initiatives within their areas. In October, 182 missionaries participated in a vaccination day in Puebla, Mexico. They dispensed hand sanitizer, directed the crowd, and answered questions. As a result of their efforts, more than 110,000 adults were able to receive their COVID-19 vaccination.

**ELDER MORÁN**, a missionary serving in the Puebla North Mission said, “We believe that when we serve others, we are serving God. We believe that we are brothers in faith, of the family of God, so service is fundamental to our belief.”<sup>17</sup>



*Above: The Church's Transitional Services works with those who require assistance with various needs, such as job search help and accessing local resources.*

## Transitional Services

- 5,000 individuals and families assisted through fast offering funds or bishops' orders
- Over 29,000 hours of missionary service

### FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES AND SERVICE

**MISSIONARIES** in the Church's Transitional Services offices focus on providing temporal, mental, and spiritual aid to a wide range of individuals—including those exiting correctional facilities, women rescued from trafficking, veterans, and individuals who have recently immigrated, fled their home country, or experienced homelessness.

Transitional Services operates in seven locations in the United States with help from 131 Church-service missionaries. Church members also assist in these efforts through priesthood and Relief Society leadership positions, missionary assign-

ments, and ward and branch callings. These volunteers collaborate with community organizations and other Church entities (such as Deseret Industries and Family Services) to help those in need access the resources that can best help them.

Nearly half of those helped in 2021 were not members of the Church. These efforts are driven by the teachings of Jesus Christ to help those in need, care for the one, and love our neighbors as ourselves.

Those who receive aid are shown they are loved as children of God, given resources to help them overcome barriers that may impede their progress, and instructed on the importance of serving others. While one major purpose of Transitional Services is to help individuals become self-reliant, it is equally important to enable individuals to overcome spiritual poverty. In fact, the two go hand in hand.

### REAPING THE BLESSINGS OF SELF-RELIANCE

Upon being released from prison after 25 years, Carl was referred to the Transitional Services office by his branch president. Transitional Services ensured that Carl had necessities such as food, clothing, and access to public transportation, which helped him get back on his feet. But with few loved ones in his life, Carl also needed support to find happiness, hope, and purpose.

The volunteers at Transitional Services taught Carl of the power of the Savior, helping him recognize his worth and potential. They also helped him obtain employment. He has since sought opportunities to aid those in similar circumstances, helping three other former inmates to gain employment and find hope.

# Worldwide Aid

---

*“Most humanitarian and charitable efforts need to be accomplished by pooling and managing individual resources on a large scale. The restored Church does this with its enormous humanitarian efforts worldwide.”*

PRESIDENT DALLIN H. OAKS, FIRST COUNSELOR IN THE FIRST PRESIDENCY<sup>18</sup>





## Food Security and Nutrition

- 104 food security projects worldwide
- 18 countries impacted

---

**THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS** believes that everyone should have access to nutritious food. With the help of donations from members, the Church works to establish food security and proper nutrition for communities around the world to improve their overall health and quality of life.

If access to colorful and nutrient-dense food isn't possible, individuals are encouraged to take measures to grow fruits, vegetables, and grains themselves. Learning to supply food for self and family provides a sense of fulfillment and can yield major health benefits for generations to come.

With the collaboration of other groups like Concern Worldwide, Catholic Relief Services, and UNICEF USA, the Church helped carry out 104 food security projects around the world in 2021. Individuals and families were taught improved agricultural methods that will result in increased food production in their communities long after the projects end.

Abraham, for example, has benefited immensely from the trainings provided through a project implemented through Concern Worldwide. A passionate vegetable gardener in Liberia, Abraham was able to learn technical skills that have helped him increase crop yield. In addition to being able to feed his family, he is now able to sell his surplus

to others in his community. Abraham's is one of 31,262 small-scale family farms supported through Church projects this year.

The Church also contributes to projects that help participants learn key principles and practices of good nutrition. For instance, the Church worked with other charitable organizations to distribute a small but mighty "Lucky Iron Fish" to combat maternal iron deficiency anemia in Benin and Senegal. This two-inch, fish-shaped piece of iron releases six to eight milligrams of iron into any liquid when boiled, and it is reusable for several years. Through this project, the Church was able to provide enough Lucky Iron Fish to enrich over 5 million meals.

---

*"This is more than a relationship between two charities, it's a relationship between faith communities dedicated to reaching out to our sisters and brothers globally."*

—SEAN CALLAHAN  
President and CEO of Catholic Relief Services<sup>19</sup>

---



© 2021, Lucky Iron Fish Enterprises (LIFE)

### THE SCHOOL ORCHARD PROJECT

In Kyrgyzstan, the Church and Mercy Corps collaborated to help dozens of schools establish and maintain orchards, with the primary purpose of providing fresh fruits for the children's dietary needs. In 2021, the Church sponsored the planting of 2,102 saplings at 20 additional schools. This brought the total number of participating schools to 155, benefiting over 3,000 students.

Any produce not consumed by students and staff is sold to provide funds to further supplement school meals. In November 2021, an evaluation by Mercy Corps found that the overall sapling survival rate was 95%, thanks to the schools' outstanding efforts to maintain the orchards.

### SUPPORTING MALNOURISHED CHILDREN

When Gbassay of Sierra Leone was 18 months old, she suffered from severe acute malnutrition and other health complications and was admitted to the hospital for two months. Thanks to support provided by the Church and UNICEF USA, Gbassay was able to gain the necessary weight to sustain her life.

This was only the first step, however, as Gbassay's future physical and mental development would depend on her ongoing nutrition. Through participation in a support group on how to use locally-grown food to feed children, Gbassay's mother learned how to adequately nourish her own child and also became a "nutrition ambassador" to teach these same skills to other mothers in her community.

As a result of the Church's and UNICEF USA's combined efforts in 2021, approximately 1,500 children across Sierra Leone's Moyamba District have successfully recovered after receiving treatment for malnutrition.



© DIGDEEP

## Clean Water and Sanitation

- 1.74 million people helped
- Projects initiated in 47 countries
- 114 clean water and sanitation projects

**CLEAN WATER** has been a primary focus of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for many years. Access to safely-managed drinking water and sanitation services is fundamental to quality of life and provides a foundation for families and communities.

Clean water further promotes personal development by increasing health, keeping children and youth in school, and enabling individuals to become self-reliant.

While welfare missionaries may assist in efforts to provide clean water throughout the world, most projects do not require or include direct involvement by members of the Church. Rather, the Church uses donations from members to work with organizations that have a holistic approach to strengthening clean water and sanitation systems. Many of these organizations are part of the Agenda for Change—a coalition of key groups that are committed to strengthening water systems.

The goal of the Church to provide communities with access to clean water focuses on the sanctity, purpose, and importance of life. In addition, the Church works to ensure sustainability by training local communities on hygiene and sanitation best practices, as well as on the maintenance of their water systems.

To this end, the Church completed several notable water projects in 2021, including a collaboration with Water for People to construct or repair five school and community water systems in the villages of Chinda, San Antonio de Cortés, and El Negrito, Honduras. This project improved water service for 231 students and educators, as well as 936 community residents.

The Church also supported a water project in Mali in conjunction with WaterAid. The project provided 11 new latrine blocks at schools and healthcare facilities. In addition, a water supply system was installed at a local clinic, along with an incinerator to manage biomedical waste. A laundry facility was added to a maternity ward, and two school management committees and one community health association received training on how to maintain the sanitation facilities. In total, the project impacted over 5,300 people.

---

*“In modeling our ministering after Jesus Christ, it is important to remember that His efforts to love, lift, serve, and bless had a higher goal than meeting the immediate need. . . . He wanted to do more than take care of today.”*

—BISHOP W. CHRISTOPHER WADDELL  
First Counselor in the Presiding Bishopric<sup>20</sup>

---



### CLEAN WATER IN THE NAVAJO NATION

Thirty percent of Navajo families live without convenient access to running water. To address this issue, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints worked with the Navajo Tribe in 2021 to bring clean, running water to the Navajo Nation. This was accomplished through a partnership with DigDeep, a nonprofit organization.

DigDeep, the Church, and the Navajo Tribe have worked together during the COVID-19 pandemic to deliver water through several hundred 275-gallon storage tanks, resupplied regularly by tanker trucks. To date, the project has benefited more than 700 individuals in New Mexico, Utah, and Arizona.

In addition, the Navajo Water Project focused on ways to deliver running water and plumbing to the most vulnerable—including Navajo elders. To date, these home water systems have been installed in 20 households.

### RESTORING WATER SYSTEMS IN HONDURAS

When two tropical storms struck Honduras in 2020, the water system in the town of Cordoncillos was destroyed. As a result, Bessy and hundreds of others had to transport water to their homes from a creek. This was particularly challenging because it happened during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In response, community members worked with technicians from Water for People to aid in efforts to reconstruct water systems. The Church supported these efforts, and water was ultimately restored for Cordoncillos.

Bessy is now one of more than 3,000 people who have safe water to protect their health and wash their food. Having experienced a time without access to clean water, Bessy is especially grateful for those who restored water systems in her town and who lead clean water initiatives throughout the world.



© DIGDEEP



© DIGDEEP



## Education

- Over 600,000 students served
- Textbooks and education materials provided for 7,740 students
- Classroom furnishings provided for 6,998 students
- Remote learning for 2,400 students

---

### PROVIDING ACCESS TO QUALITY EDUCATION

for all promotes dignity among all humankind and brings individuals closer to God. The scriptures teach us to learn continually—to “seek learning, even by study and also by faith” (Doctrine and Covenants 88:118). Additionally, we believe that “the glory of God is intelligence, or, in other words, light and truth” (Doctrine and Covenants 93:36).

The Perpetual Education Fund (PEF) loan program helps members pay for training programs that will enable them to obtain better employment or start their own business. In 2021, 2,282 new PEF participants received education loans, allowing them to attend vocational training programs for up to two years. 170 of these participants graduated in 2021, and 177 found better employment—several of them even before graduating. In 2021, the PEF loan program was also made available to participants in four new countries: Burundi, Cameroon, the Republic of the Congo, and Rwanda.

The Benson Scholarship program provides scholarships to help recipients obtain post-secondary

education in agriculture-related fields. In 2021, 237 recipients were awarded scholarships.

The Church also operates BYU–Pathway Worldwide, which works in tandem with Brigham Young University–Idaho and Ensign College to provide greater access to affordable online education. In 2021, BYU–Pathway Worldwide served nearly 60,000 students from more than 180 countries. Over 50 percent of BYU–Pathway students are from countries outside the United States or Canada.

Through the Church’s EnglishConnect program, individuals around the world are able to increase self-reliance and expand opportunities by learning English. Courses are offered in several countries and regions, including Brazil, Korea, Mexico, Japan, the Caribbean, and Central America.

Additionally, the Church sponsors education programs to help people around the world who are refugees or have been displaced. Education and livelihoods are two of the most commonly requested forms of assistance by these populations. Projects

---

*“Lifelong learning can increase our ability to appreciate and relish the workings and beauty of the world around us.”*

—PRESIDENT DALLIN H. OAKS  
First Counselor in the First Presidency<sup>21</sup>

---

include refurbishing and furnishing classrooms, providing school supplies, and supporting technology to facilitate remote learning (such as during the COVID-19 pandemic).

When helping with education projects for individuals who are refugees, the Church works with established global, regional, and national organizations. These grassroots organizations do the frontline work in the camps or settlements, with monitoring work often performed by missionaries and other volunteers.

Education also plays a vital role in many of the Church's other humanitarian initiatives. In order

to promote long-term sustainability, the Church chooses projects that deliver training and education to the affected area. This ensures that doctors are prepared to use new equipment, that communities are trained to maintain new water facilities, that individuals are more aware of resources and best practices for their area, and more.

Members around the world support education initiatives through volunteer work and missionary service. These volunteers contributed nearly 10,000 hours of service in 2021.



### **SYRIAN STUDENTS DETERMINED TO LEARN**

In 2021, the Church partnered with Jusoor—an education program for Syrian children and youth. The project created an online education program called “Azima,” named after the Arabic word for determination.

Globally, access to technology is an increasing factor in children's education. This is especially true in communities of refugees, where only two-thirds of households have at least one smartphone.

Jusoor found that many students in refugee settlements had to rush to finish their homework in order to allow their siblings to use the phone.

Jusoor created grant and rental programs to help these children access the technology they needed. Facing the challenges of at-home learning during the COVID-19 pandemic, students in the Azima program made great progress in math, Arabic, and English.



© Himalayan Cataract Foundation

## Healthcare and Disability

- 135 mobility projects in 57 countries and territories
- 25 maternal and newborn care projects in 18 countries
- 28 vision projects in 24 countries and territories
- 7 campaigns to end diseases such as diabetes, polio, and measles

---

**DURING CHRIST'S MORTAL MINISTRY,** He took special care to minister to those with physical disabilities, infirmities, and ailments. We continue this great mission today through our healthcare and disability work around the world.

Our initiatives focus on four categories: vision care, wheelchair and mobility assistance, maternal and newborn care, and immunizations. The Church works with local ministries of health and other organizations to better understand needs and brainstorm solutions. We also collaborate with trusted organizations, such as CharityVision, Lions Club International Foundation, UNICEF USA, and others.

When choosing projects, the Church prioritizes initiatives that lead to long-term improvements. We evaluate each project's plan to improve the quality and sustainability of the local healthcare system, including plans for ongoing training and equipment maintenance. Projects should also align with

national care plans, strengthen existing systems, and improve preparedness to respond to outbreaks and other urgent needs.

Successful initiatives should also include awareness and education efforts that are designed to reach unserved and underserved populations. With every project, we implement a monitoring and evaluation plan to identify needed adjustments.

Local Church members, as well as full-time humanitarian and service missionaries, provide instrumental support in these efforts. These volunteers conduct interviews with aid recipients as part of the monitoring and evaluation process. Church members with special skills or knowledge may also volunteer locally as trainers.

---

*“Jesus Christ is the perfect example of . . . love and service. During His ministry, He cared for the poor, healed the sick and the blind.”*

—ELDER RONALD A. RASBAND  
Quorum of the Twelve Apostles<sup>22</sup>

---

With help from volunteers, local health ministries, and implementing organizations, the Church participated in nearly 200 healthcare and disability initiatives worldwide in 2021.

In Paraguay, the Church worked with Fundación Solidaridad to provide wheelchairs for approximately 900 people with severe disabilities (such as cerebral palsy). The project also involved training a team of doctors, physical therapists, social workers, and technicians on how to use the wheelchairs and other postural devices.

In Mozambique, the Church funded a project with Sightsavers to conduct over 35,000 vision screenings. The project also funded 1,500 cataract surgeries and awareness campaigns that led to improved access for people with disabilities.

In Tajikistan, the Church sent equipment to address newborn and maternal care. Healthcare experts also worked with the Tajikistan Ministry of Health to hold monthly virtual meetings to train 1,000 doctors,

nurses, and midwives on topics such as pre-eclampsia and neonatal resuscitation.

In Venezuela, the Church worked with UNICEF USA to procure vaccines for measles, mumps, rubella, diphtheria, tetanus, polio, and tuberculosis for over 400,000 women and children. The Church also funded repairs and maintenance for vaccination storage systems in three warehouses.

In Malawi, the Church provided funds for hearing care services through DeafKidz International. In addition to community-based awareness campaigns, the project equipped and trained local clinic staff and health surveillance assistants. As a result, 556 children and adults were screened for hearing loss in 2021.





### MAKING THE WORLD MORE ACCESSIBLE

Ezra, who lives in the Philippines, has a condition in which he lacks fingers and toes and both of his feet face to the left. As he was growing, he also noticed that his right leg was longer than his left, causing an imbalance in how he walked. Eventually, Ezra made the difficult decision to have his left leg amputated and fitted with a prosthetic leg.

In 2021, the Church worked with numerous regional medical centers, local organizations, and groups such as Physicians for Peace. Through these efforts, the Church was able to distribute 982 wheelchairs and 335 assistive devices throughout the Philippines.

It was through a Church-sponsored project that Ezra was able to receive his prosthetic leg, which allowed him to walk and stand with greater ease. His new prosthetic will allow him to enjoy greater mobility and self-reliance in his life.



### FIVE YEARS OF BLINDNESS HEALED

Halima, a Tanzanian native, wondered if she would ever reclaim her independence after cataracts left her blind for five years.

“I just want to be independent again. I was independent my whole life, but now I feel totally useless,”<sup>23</sup> Halima said. She relied on her niece for full-time care, which required her niece to postpone school.

Thankfully, Halima’s vision loss was treatable. Through a Church-sponsored project implemented by CharityVision, she was able to receive sight-restoring surgery. She is one of thousands we helped in 2021 to regain independence and improve their quality of life.

With her sight, Halima feels free from her burdens and has regained independence. She is grateful her niece can now go back to school.

# Emergency Response

*“Our joint relief efforts have strengthened our global emergency disaster response and helped millions worldwide.”*

MICHAEL KRUGER, PRESIDENT OF THE ADVENTIST DEVELOPMENT AND RELIEF AGENCY (ADRA)



**Above:** Following Hurricane Ida, community volunteers, including members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, spent their Labor Day holiday weekend cleaning up.



## Emergency Response

- 199 emergency response projects in 61 countries and territories
- 585 COVID-19 projects in 76 countries and territories
- One billion vaccine doses distributed

---

**THE CHURCH PLACES A HIGH PRIORITY** on responding to natural disasters and other emergencies throughout the world. In 2021, hundreds of emergency response projects were completed by the Church in nearly 100 countries. Through these projects, relief was provided to affected individuals by supplying food, water, shelter supplies, health-care, and other necessities.

Among these efforts were 585 COVID-19 projects, aimed to relieve suffering from the pandemic. The Church donated medical supplies and equipment throughout the world, as well as other vital aid—including 320,000 food baskets to feed one million Brazilians who had been impacted by the pandemic.

In early 2021, the Church also donated \$20 million to UNICEF USA to support the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator—the global effort to ensure equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments, and vaccines—which includes the COVAX initiative. This contribution made the Church the largest private-sector donor to the initiative at that time. UNICEF’s representative to India, Dr. Yasmin Ali Haque, said “It is unprecedented in the history of the world where partners have come together . . . to bring a vaccine

which is going to be lifesaving to countries all over the world.”<sup>24</sup> Projects focused on providing equitable access to the COVID-19 vaccine by securing and hastening production of the vaccine, training health-care workers, and addressing misinformation.

The Church also sponsored seven projects following a volcanic eruption in the Democratic Republic of Congo. These projects focused on delivering food and water, restoring a dam and clean water sources, and working with other relief organizations. One project completed in collaboration with Women of Faith DRC resulted in more than 800 volunteer hours that impacted 31,000 individuals.

In the United States, the Church worked on four projects to respond to the needs of victims of Hurricane Ida, which was one of the most powerful hurricanes to ever hit the country. Through donations to the American Red Cross, the Church aided in providing shelter, meals, and psychological first aid. The Church also mobilized

---

*“Your timely response in early 2021 was instrumental in accelerating our COVID-19 vaccine delivery efforts and bringing the first vaccines to some countries.”*

—CARLA HADDAD MARDINI  
Director of UNICEF’s Private Fundraising and Partnership Division

---



volunteers from stakes in the southeastern United States, where crews helped 6,521 families with property cleanup using supplies from the local bishops' storehouses.

In August 2021, a 7.2-magnitude earthquake rocked Haiti, causing significant damage to infrastructure and displacing thousands. The Church responded by working through trusted organizations to address various needs within the country, including shelter, food, water, sanitation, hygiene, and medical care. Additionally, the Church provided local hospitals with equipment needed to take care of those injured in the disaster.

One reason the Church and its members are able to give of time and resources during emergencies is because they have prepared in advance and have monitored world circumstances. The Church seeks to establish relationships with governments and other relief organizations who respond to crises while also strengthening preparedness within the Church and communities. This allows the Church to help promptly and more effectively when unexpected events happen.

Members also prepare for disasters by following principles of self-reliance and emergency preparedness, including saving money and purchasing food storage. In 2021, 13.9 million pounds of home storage products were sold to individuals and families to support family preparedness.



© Scott Dalton/American Red Cross

### KEY EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROJECTS FOR 2021

- **Ethiopia:** The Church provided food, health-care, hygiene supplies, and water support in the Tigray region.
- **United States:** Member volunteers helped clean up damage from fire and smoke debris in Washington and Oregon.
- **Philippines:** In the aftermath of Hurricane Odette, Church members rallied to open over 50 Church meetinghouses in the central and southern Philippines islands. These meetinghouses operated as shelters for nearly 5,000 people.
- **Tonga:** Church members and missionaries helped clean up and rebuild after a volcanic eruption spewed thick ash that covered much of the country.
- **United States:** The Church provided emergency supplies and shelter in response to devastating floods in Hawaii.
- **Europe:** Members and missionaries of the Church served thousands of hours to provide relief to flood victims. They sorted donated goods and cleaned cellars, houses, and a school for students with special needs. The Church provided water, food, and medical assistance in response to flooding and displacement.
- **Sudan:** The Church provided basic necessities such as clean water, food, and medical supplies, as well as flood relief and refugee response.
- **United States:** JustServe rallied hundreds of volunteers to help with severe conditions due to power outages and frozen pipes in Texas.



**CHURCH MEMBERS** are anxious to help those in need and are heavily involved in efforts to relieve suffering, both locally and globally. These include missionaries—who are encouraged to participate in weekly service. Additionally, everyday members sacrifice time from their busy lives to address community and worldwide needs.

Church-sponsored projects are designed to provide community service and disaster relief to those in need, allowing members and others to be part of organized emergency response teams. Additionally, JustServe provides information about how individuals can get involved in their local communities.

Outside of these organized responses, individuals, families, and congregations give back in many other ways. These include assembling humanitarian kits and food packages, volunteering with organizations that work with individuals who have been displaced or have fled their home country, and more.

Church members and friends of the Church also contribute by donating to Church humanitarian aid. One young boy, for example, started a lemonade stand and donated the proceeds to the Church's humanitarian program. While donations vary in size, all contributions are considered sacred.



## Blood Drives

- Over 3,000 blood drives hosted
- More than 100,000 units of blood donated
- Over 105,000 individual donors

---

**COLLECTING BLOOD** for those in need is a global effort of the Church. For example, in Peru, a congregation collaborated with a local hospital to hold a blood drive at their Church meeting-house. Additionally, more than 1,700 volunteers in Argentina donated blood through Church-sponsored drives during 2021.

Brian, a member of the Palmira Branch of the Church in Mendoza, Argentina, said of his experience: “Being able to give blood for another person, for those who need it, fills me with gratitude and makes me know a little more about what the Savior did for me.”<sup>25</sup>

In the United States, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has a longstanding relationship with the American Red Cross that dates to the late 19th century. Members of the Church not only make regular blood donations but also assist with scheduling and promoting drives, recruiting individuals to register, and assisting with logistical needs on the day of a drive.

---

*“We get 100,000 units of blood from the Church every year. There is no organization, no institution anywhere that comes close to that . . . I am in awe of your community’s commitment to faith and service.”*

—GAIL MCGOVERN, CEO of the American Red Cross<sup>26</sup>

---

### LIVES SAVED BY BLOOD DONATIONS

At only four months old, Megan needed an open-heart surgery to repair her heart condition. Since Megan fell into the 6.6% of the world’s population with the rare O-negative blood type, the hospital issued a citywide alert for O-negative blood donors.

Megan’s family and their church congregation fasted and prayed for volunteers to donate blood. The very next day, their prayers were answered.

“In a day, 73 people showed up. Some people had literally traveled from Newcastle, which is a three-hour drive away, just to be able to donate,” Megan’s mother says.<sup>27</sup>

Megan was one of millions whose lives are saved by blood donations every year. Thanks to the kindness of friends and strangers, Megan has had the opportunity to grow up and live a healthy, happy life.



© 2018 Renée Jacobsen

## Food Production and Distribution

- 80 million pounds of food donated
- Over 100 million pounds of food produced
- For every 10 pounds of food produced, 3 people are fed for a day

---

**THE CHURCH OPERATES 32 FARMS**, ranches, orchards, and processing facilities, which produced over 100 million pounds of food in 2021. Every ten pounds produced can feed three people for a day. 36 million pounds of this food were distributed to Church members and others in need through bishops' storehouses, while 44 million pounds were donated through community initiatives. Additional commodities are held in storage each year as preparation for use in future emergencies.

There are 124 bishops' storehouses currently in operation. Individuals in need may work with their local leaders to receive food and other items free of charge at these facilities. In locations where there is not a bishops' storehouse nearby, arrangements are made to allow leaders to refer individuals to local grocery stores.

Nearly all storehouses and home storage centers are managed by Church-service missionaries. These volunteers order products, stock shelves, fill orders, clean the facilities, and assist patrons in a kind and loving way. Facilities also receive donated labor from local congregations.

As emergencies arise around the world, the Church partners with local aid organizations to source and distribute emergency commodities in the most efficient and effective ways possible. The local purchase of goods

- speeds up delivery time,
- reduces transportation costs, allowing more money to be spent on goods,
- provides foods that are more familiar to those in need,
- supports the local economy, and
- involves members of the local communities in the distribution of the supplies.

On December 21, 2021, the Deseret Mill and Pasta Plant celebrated the millionth case of food produced that year—a volume that nearly doubled what the plant produced in 2019. Those one million cases are equivalent to 527,661,424 servings of food. Wheat and other food processed at the facility come from Church farms and vendors in the United States. The facility packages flour, oats, rice, beans, cake and pancake mixes, macaroni, ribbon pasta, and spaghetti.

Roughly 60 volunteers a day sign up to help in busy, four-hour shifts. Food from the mill was donated through bishops' storehouses and delivered by the truckload to food pantries and other charitable agencies.

In February of 2021, in response to Hurricanes Eta and Iota, the Church delivered over 170,000 pounds of food to impacted residents in Honduras—including items produced at the Deseret Mill and Pasta Plant.

---

*“For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat; I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink; I was a stranger, and ye took me in.”*

—MATTHEW 25:35

---



### **A SPECIAL GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS**

Production facilities not only furnish commodities to bless those in need—they also provide opportunities to serve alongside one another. Missionaries join with Church and community volunteers to perform the various tasks needed to process and package food for the hungry. Each of these groups give their service and love without fanfare.

Often, those who volunteer are among the many individuals who benefit from the finished goods. In central Salt Lake City, for instance, bishops may invite those who are receiving assistance to volunteer for a set number of hours at the Welfare Square Cannery. Likewise, local judges may invite minor offenders to fulfill their community service hours at the same facility. Through the work at production facilities, both givers and receivers are blessed as they serve one another and obtain needed sustenance.

### **FAMILIES KEPT WARM AND FED**

In addition to the bishops' storehouses and local arrangements with grocery stores, the Church also donates commodities and provides support to local food banks. Through these donations, Brittany was able to keep her family warm and fed via her local Mobile Pantry.

“The things that make life a little more comfortable are things we've been able to do thanks to the help we receive from the Mobile Pantry. Now we can do things like let the kids eat as much as they want. Having insufficient food is miserable, and the kids worry about it.”

This additional support has also helped Brittany's family to save money for other vital needs. When the temperature in her house dropped to 42 degrees, she knew she could afford to turn on the heat.

“It sure was nice to turn it on!” said Brittany.



## Thank You

*We express our heartfelt gratitude to all those who have generously donated or volunteered their time and efforts to these humanitarian causes. Your service has not gone unnoticed. Many have given of their means through Church Philanthropies, and even more have given online or through their bishops. Because of your contributions of time, resources, energy, and compassion, we are able to make a difference in the lives of thousands around the world and learn from those who have been served. Thank you!*

*We extend the invitation to all to become involved and find new ways to serve. Your kindness and efforts can—and do—make a difference.*

---

## What can you do to help?

*To get involved and learn more about our efforts to help those in need, visit us online or on our social pages.*

[ChurchOfJesusChrist.org](http://ChurchOfJesusChrist.org) | [JustServe.org](http://JustServe.org) | [DeseretIndustries.org](http://DeseretIndustries.org) | [LatterdaySaintCharities.org](http://LatterdaySaintCharities.org) | [AddictionRecovery.ChurchOfJesusChrist.org](http://AddictionRecovery.ChurchOfJesusChrist.org)



# References

- <sup>1</sup> Russell M. Nelson, "The Second Great Commandment," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2019, 97.
- <sup>2</sup> Henry B. Eyring, "Is Not This the Fast That I Have Chosen?" *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2015, 22.
- <sup>3</sup> Gérald Caussé, "Love Thy Neighbor: Church Joins Global COVID-19 Humanitarian Relief Effort," [newsroom.ChurchofJesusChrist.org](https://newsroom.ChurchofJesusChrist.org).
- <sup>4</sup> Jean B. Bingham, "Ministering as the Savior Does," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2018, 104.
- <sup>5</sup> Jeffrey R. Holland, "Be With and Strengthen Them," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2018, 105.
- <sup>6</sup> Henry B. Eyring, "Inspired Ministering," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2018, 64.
- <sup>7</sup> Lorrie Curriden, in "The Church's Welcome Centers Help Immigrants Live Better Lives," [newsroom.churchofjesuschrist.org/article/the-church-s-welcome-centers-help-immigrants-live-better-lives](https://newsroom.churchofjesuschrist.org/article/the-church-s-welcome-centers-help-immigrants-live-better-lives).
- <sup>8</sup> Adriana Robledo, in "Latter-day Saints Around the World: Country Newsroom Websites, May 3, 2021," [news-ca.churchofjesuschrist.org/article/caring-for-the-elderly](https://news-ca.churchofjesuschrist.org/article/caring-for-the-elderly).
- <sup>9</sup> Russell M. Nelson, "Hope of Israel" [worldwide youth devotional, June 3, 2018], supplement to the *New Era* and *Ensign*, 3, [Church-of-JesusChrist.org](https://newsroom.ChurchofJesusChrist.org).
- <sup>10</sup> Russell M. Nelson, "The Second Great Commandment," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2019, 97.
- <sup>11</sup> M. Russell Ballard, "Becoming Self-Reliant Spiritually and Physically," *Ensign*, Mar. 2009, 50.
- <sup>12</sup> Sharon Eubank, "I Pray He'll Use Us," *Liahona*, Nov. 2021, 55.
- <sup>13</sup> Russell M. Nelson, "Preaching the Gospel of Peace," *Liahona*, May 2022, 6.
- <sup>14</sup> Reyna I. Aburto, address given at International Women-in-Diplomacy Day luncheon, Mar. 11, 2020.
- <sup>15</sup> Sariah McQueen, in "Schoolbooks and Furniture to Damaged Schools in Fiji," [news-nz.churchofjesuschrist.org/article/school-books-and-furniture-to-damaged-schools-in-fiji](https://news-nz.churchofjesuschrist.org/article/school-books-and-furniture-to-damaged-schools-in-fiji).
- <sup>16</sup> Gary E. Stevenson, "Simply Beautiful—Beautifully Simple," *Liahona*, Nov. 2021, 50.
- <sup>17</sup> Elder Morán, "Alrededor de 1000 misioneros y miembros de la Iglesia de Jesucristo colaboraron como voluntarios en jornada de vacunación en Puebla," [noticias.laiglesiadejesucristo.org/articulo/misioneros-y-miembros-colaboraron-como-voluntarios](https://noticias.laiglesiadejesucristo.org/articulo/misioneros-y-miembros-colaboraron-como-voluntarios).
- <sup>18</sup> Dallin H. Oaks, "The Need for a Church," *Liahona*, Nov. 2021, 25.
- <sup>19</sup> Sean Callahan, in "In Utah, Catholics, Mormons Have 'Positive, Cordial Relationship,'" <https://www.catholicsun.org/2019/03/24/in-utah-catholics-mormons-have-positive-cordial-relationship/>
- <sup>20</sup> W. Christopher Waddell, "Just as He Did," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2019, 20.
- <sup>21</sup> Dallin H. Oaks, "Push Back Against the World," <https://speeches.byuh.edu/commencement/push-back-against-the-world>.
- <sup>22</sup> Ronald A. Rasband, "To Heal the World," *Liahona*, May 2022, 92.
- <sup>23</sup> Halima, in "Restoring Eyes and Lives through the Church's Global Vision Care Initiative," [thechurchnews.com/global/2021-06-17/latter-day-saint-charities-eyes-vision-cataracts-africa-215459](https://thechurchnews.com/global/2021-06-17/latter-day-saint-charities-eyes-vision-cataracts-africa-215459).
- <sup>24</sup> Yasmin Ali Haque, in "2 Billion COVID-19 Vaccinations Roll Out to At-Risk Populations," [newsroom.churchofjesuschrist.org/article/2-billion-covid-19-vaccinations-roll-out-at-risk-populations](https://newsroom.churchofjesuschrist.org/article/2-billion-covid-19-vaccinations-roll-out-at-risk-populations).
- <sup>25</sup> Brian Ezequiel Oliva Fuentes, in "Cerca de 3500 voluntarios Santos de los Últimos Días donaron sangre durante la Pandemia Covid-19 en Argentina," [noticias.laiglesiadejesucristo.org/articulo/cerca-de-3500-voluntarios-santos-de-los-ultimos-dias-donaron-sangre-durante-la-pandemia-covid-19-en-argentina](https://noticias.laiglesiadejesucristo.org/articulo/cerca-de-3500-voluntarios-santos-de-los-ultimos-dias-donaron-sangre-durante-la-pandemia-covid-19-en-argentina).
- <sup>26</sup> Gail McGovern, in "The Church of Jesus Christ Does This more Than Any Other Organization," [deseret.com/2021/9/30/22690263/churchbeat-newsletter-mormon-lds-church-of-jesus-christ-red-cross-blood-donations](https://deseret.com/2021/9/30/22690263/churchbeat-newsletter-mormon-lds-church-of-jesus-christ-red-cross-blood-donations).
- <sup>27</sup> Rebecca Waring, in "Blood Donations Save Tiny Lives," [news-uk.churchofjesuschrist.org/article/blood-donations-save-tiny-lives](https://news-uk.churchofjesuschrist.org/article/blood-donations-save-tiny-lives).
- <sup>28</sup> L. Todd Budge, "Giving Holiness to the Lord," *Liahona*, Nov. 2021, 100.

---

*“Just as significant as the contribution of goods is the tremendous outpouring of time and energy which Church members donate to humanitarian causes.”*

BISHOP L. TODD BUDGE, SECOND COUNSELOR IN THE PRESIDING BISHOPRIC<sup>28</sup>

*“They who are willing to be called the Lord’s people  
‘are willing to bear one another’s burdens, . . . to  
mourn with those that mourn; . . . and [to] comfort  
those that stand in need of comfort.’”*

—PRESIDENT RUSSELL M. NELSON  
President of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

