

## 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, 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.

## 2016 Statistics

**Hours of labor donated to Welfare Services related projects** 7,247,723

**Training Placements** 5,218

### Total number of facilities:

Storehouses	132
Home storage centers	102
Farm projects	48
Food and commodity processing facilities	13
Storage and distribution facilities	34
Deseret Industries thrift stores	43
LDS Family Services offices	94

**Number of full- or part-time Welfare Services volunteers** 10,236

Examples of volunteer assignments:

- Improving agricultural and medical practices
- Leading addiction recovery groups
- Supervising welfare projects
- Manage/staff food production and distribution facilities

### Emergency Response Projects

The Church carried out 119 disaster response projects and 313 refugee relief projects in 89 countries.

Examples of emergency situations:

Ecuador	Earthquake
Florida and Haiti	Hurricane Matthew
Louisiana	Flooding
Nigeria	Famine

### Humanitarian Initiatives

Humanitarian assistance was provided in 147 countries through the following initiatives:

Initiative	Beneficiaries	Countries
Clean Water & Sanitation	380,000	19
Wheelchair	55,500	48
Vision (caregivers trained)	90,000	37
Maternal & Newborn Care (caregivers trained)	33,000	37
Benson Food	116,000	12
Immunization (campaigns)	7	6

*More information is available at [www.providentliving.org](http://www.providentliving.org).*