

# WELFARE SERVICES FACT SHEET—2008

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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.

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

## 2008 Statistics

Days of labor donated to Church welfare facilities	1,100,059
Employment and training placements	
U.S. and Canada	70,309
Internationally	96,604
Total number of:	
Storehouses	140
Home storage centers	101
Production projects	54
Processing facilities	24
Storage and distribution facilities	36
Employment resource centers	313
Deseret Industries thrift stores	43
LDS Family Services offices	72
Number of missionaries serving in Welfare Services	6,470
<u>Examples of missionary assignments</u>	
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 (1985–2008)	193
<u>Recent examples</u>	
China earthquake relief	2008
Midwest U.S. flood relief	2008
Ethiopia famine relief	2008
Peru earthquake relief	2007–2008
Africa measles vaccination campaigns	2004–2008
Southeast Asia tsunami relief	2004–2007
Humanitarian assistance rendered (1985–2008)	
Cash donations	\$282.3 million
Value of material assistance	\$833.6 million
Countries served	167
Food	61,308 tons
Medical supplies	12,829 tons
Clothing	84,681 tons
Educational supplies	5,965 tons
Hygiene, newborn, and school kits	8.6 million