

WELFARE SERVICES FACT SHEET—2005

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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).

Since its beginning, the Church has organized to assist its members to provide for the physical, spiritual, social, and emotional welfare of themselves and others. Welfare services are provided in accordance with principles set forth in scripture and are financially supported through the voluntary contributions of Church members who fast one day each month and donate at least the value of the meals missed.

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 the help required to meet the individual's or family's specific needs. The bishop is assisted in his efforts by priesthood quorums and the women's Relief Society.

To assist in welfare efforts, the Church has established in many locations a resource system that includes storehouses, production projects, processing facilities, thrift stores, employment centers, and family services offices. Because the purpose of the Church's 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. Additionally, Church members who volunteer their time, skills, and talents do much of the work in the storehouses and other facilities. Some members volunteer full-time, serving as welfare missionaries and teaching such things as basic living skills, nutrition, sanitation, literacy, and career development.

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 and families and increase the capacity of communities and institutions to serve others. 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 the Church's Provident Living Web site, www.providentliving.org.

2005 Statistics

Days of labor donated to Church welfare facilities	581,821
Days of labor donated for disaster relief	157,000

Employment and training placements

U.S. and Canada	93,221
Internationally	128,977

Total number of

Storehouses	129
Home storage centers	98
Production projects	54
Processing facilities	24
Storage and distribution facilities	36
Employment resource centers	259
Deseret Industries thrift stores	46
LDS Family Services offices	66

Number of missionaries serving in Welfare Services	3,512
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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 (1985–2005)	177
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Recent examples:

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita relief	2005
Pakistan earthquake relief	2005
Africa measles vaccination campaigns	2004/5
Southeast Asia tsunami relief	2004
Florida/Caribbean hurricanes relief	2004

Humanitarian assistance rendered (1985–2005)

Cash donations	\$169.6 million
Value of material assistance	\$660 million
Countries served	163
Food distributed	51,480 tons
Medical equipment distributed	7,697 tons
Surplus clothing	68,923 tons
Educational supplies	5,753 tons