



Caring for Those in Need

2023 SUMMARY

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



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THANK YOU

RESOURCES

Cover (clockwise from top): A young man helps children with their homework; A mother and daughter in Hong Kong; A family in India receives vision care; A young woman smiles at the sunset; Church members in Guam clean up the community after Typhoon Mawar; A child in Yemen sits on top of donated shelter materials, photo courtesy of ShelterBox; Children splash in clean water, photo courtesy of WaterAid/Jerry Galea; A mother holds her child during a nutrition screening, photo courtesy of World Food Programme.



President Russell M. Nelson with his two counselors, President Dallin H. Oaks and President Henry B. Eyring.

Dear Friends,

When Jesus Christ was on the earth, He imparted two great commandments: to love God and to “love thy neighbour as thyself” (Matthew 22:39). As we seek to show our love for God, our hearts naturally turn toward the well-being of others. Christ Himself set the example of loving our neighbor as He healed the sick, fed the hungry, clothed the naked, and cared for the vulnerable.

We are humbled to share this summary of our efforts to continue the sacred work of caring for those in need. While the summary includes resources and services provided to assist members of the Church, an even greater portion is dedicated to describing humanitarian aid rendered to all of God’s children throughout the world. As followers of Jesus Christ, we consider this to be both a duty and a joyful privilege. We gratefully acknowledge the selfless contributions of time and means from Church members, friends, and other trusted organizations that enable this work to progress and expand.

We have faith and confidence in God’s love for all of His children. There are good people everywhere who help to carry out God’s work of salvation as they care for their neighbors and comfort them in their time of need. We invite all to join us as we reach out in love and service to one another, and we pray the Lord will continue to bless this great work.

The First Presidency

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



Individuals at the Ifo Refugee Camp in Kenya received aid through a joint project with the World Food Programme and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

“I salute the people who in small, personal ways go and find those people on the margins—those who hurt, those whose pains are not understood, the hungry, the lonely, the downtrodden—and do their best to take care of them.”

—ELDER PATRICK KEARON,
QUORUM OF THE TWELVE APOSTLES¹

Our Commitment to Care

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints seeks to extend care to an ever-increasing number of God’s children in need. This care comes in the form of welfare and self-reliance efforts, humanitarian aid, and volunteer service.

Welfare and Self-Reliance Efforts

Welfare and self-reliance efforts primarily benefit Church members and include fast-offering support, food orders, educational programs, employment services, emotional health support, and more.

Humanitarian Efforts

The greatest growth in the Church’s work to care for those in need is taking place through humanitarian outreach. Through funding and commodities, the Church supports thousands of humanitarian projects. These projects benefit millions of God’s children across the world, without regard to race, nationality, or religious affiliation.

Volunteer Service

The compassionate service of Church members and friends is a vital component of welfare, self-reliance, and humanitarian efforts. Volunteer service also helps those in our own communities who may be in need. Members of the Church are willing to “bear one another’s burdens; . . . mourn with those that mourn; . . . and comfort those that stand in need of comfort” (Mosiah 18:8–9). This is an essential part of helping us become more like Jesus Christ.



Left: Young women in Argentina serve by helping their neighbor buy groceries. Right: Women in Japan tend to a garden together.

Serving in Your Community

In Mosiah 2:17, we learn that “when ye are in the service of your fellow beings ye are only in the service of your God.” We are better able to accomplish the lofty goals of serving our fellow men and serving God when we follow the core principles of caring for those in need.

While there are many people in need across the globe, the most effective and long-lasting change happens when we build our own families, neighborhoods, and communities. When serving in any capacity, consider the following principles:

1. Identify a Need

Every community has people in need.

- Ask your neighbors and Church leaders about service opportunities they are aware of.
- Learn about nonprofit organizations in your area. Where available, use [JustServe.org](https://www.justserve.org) to find projects and nonprofits in your area.

2. Build Meaningful Relationships

The most effective service is often the result of collaboration with others whose background or religious affiliation differs from your own. Remember that everyone you serve is a child of God who deserves to be treated with understanding, love, and respect—regardless of their circumstances.

- Prioritize the person, not the project.

- Question your assumptions, set aside prejudices, and seek to truly understand the barriers faced by those whom you seek to help.
- Show your beliefs through your *actions*, remembering that the primary goal is to provide help to others. Let your good deeds do the talking!

3. Make a Plan

Plan solutions that both meet immediate needs and provide a path to self-reliance. Invite those you are serving to participate in the building of solutions by asking questions such as these:

- *What have you already tried to address this need?*
- *What would you like to try?*
- *How, when, and where would you like to receive help?*

4. Share Your Experiences

You can inspire others to act by sharing how your service has impacted yourself and others.

- Use everyday conversations to tell others about the joy of service. Invite others to join with you.
- On social media, share examples of how your humanitarian efforts have blessed your life and the lives of those you’ve served.
- Follow nonprofit organizations you support, and tag them in your own stories of service.



Mothers embracing their children.



**921 humanitarian projects
focused on women and children**

**114 countries impacted by
projects focused on women
and children**

*“We want to empower families . . .
With greater understanding and
resources, [loving parents] are
better equipped to make changes
that can have a lasting impact.”*

—PRESIDENT CAMILLE N. JOHNSON,
RELIEF SOCIETY GENERAL PRESIDENT²

Global Progress Starts with Women and Children

Members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints believe in following the Savior’s two great commandments: to love God and to love our neighbor. As part of this mandate, we seek to maximize our impact so our efforts bless not only those who receive help but also their families and communities.

In developing this pattern, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints recognizes the vital importance of prioritizing care for women and children throughout the world. In helping one woman, we provide her with the tools to bless the lives of her children and community in return. By prioritizing the care of children, we invest in the future. And when we involve men and fathers in this work, we strengthen entire families and communities.

Child Nutrition

In 2023, the Church prioritized nutrition for children of all backgrounds, donating generously to trusted organizations, including CARE, Helen Keller International, Catholic Relief Services, Save the Children, The Hunger Project, UNICEF, and the World Food Programme. This support helped hundreds of thousands of children and mothers around the world to access nutritious food, immunizations, and other forms of healthcare.

In addition to these donations, the Church administered its own nutrition program, aimed at helping children of Church members who are at risk for childhood malnutrition. The Church also helped build community gardens and donated equipment to assist in nutrition screenings for children in several areas throughout the world.



A mother and child receive nourishment at a refugee camp in Kenya. Photo courtesy of the World Food Programme.

Maternal and Newborn Care

In 2023, the Church worked to reduce maternal and infant mortality rates and provide better care for mothers and their babies. Through a collaboration with UNICEF, the Church was able to provide improved health infrastructure and immunizations for mothers and children in the Central African Republic, Haiti, Mali, and Mozambique.

In Ghana, the Philippines, and several other areas throughout the world, the Church donated neonatal equipment to assist doctors in caring for newborn babies in critical care. In the United States, the Church also worked with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) to fund and facilitate the MyBaby4Me program, which helped expecting mothers learn how to take care of their babies.

These efforts have helped to reduce maternal mortality rates, reduce the risk of long-term health complications, and improve the chances of survival for premature and critically ill newborns throughout the world.

Education

Throughout 2023, the Church continued to give high priority to improving education for women and children of all backgrounds around the world.

Among other efforts, the Church worked with Caritas in Arequipa, Peru, to expand the self-reliance of women who are heads of their households. Through this project, women received vocational training that allowed them to develop new skills and better provide for their families. The Church also facilitated classroom renovations and

donated equipment to improve access to education for children throughout the world.

Opportunities to Serve

Another way in which the Church seeks to amplify the role of women in their communities is by facilitating opportunities for women to perform acts of service. This is accomplished primarily through the Relief Society—the Church’s women’s organization—which was established with the charge to care for individuals and families in need. With members in congregations throughout the world, the Relief Society is uniquely positioned to organize grassroots efforts in local communities. This gives women more opportunities to partner with local organizations and women of other faiths to do the greatest good for those in need.

Strengthening Families and the Community

Improving the health and well-being of children involves the entire family. Every effort to strengthen families and build self-reliance makes a positive impact on the lives of children and, by extension, on the future of our communities. In 2023, the Church facilitated thousands of humanitarian projects, provided learning resources and programs, and engaged its members around the world in the work to care for those in need—all with the aim of lifting and strengthening not only Church members but all of God’s children. In providing this aid for parents and caregivers, we hope to better equip families to provide the care that children need to thrive.



Members of the Church in Guam clean up the community after Typhoon Mawar.

Members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints believe in following the Savior’s two great commandments: to love God and to love our neighbor. Members show their love through ministering.

Ministering means learning of and attending to someone’s needs. In addition to ministering to people in our local congregations, we prayerfully seek opportunities to serve those outside our faith through community projects and other initiatives.

We try to follow the example of Jesus Christ in caring for those in need—regardless of location, race, nationality, gender, religious belief, or political affiliation—without expectation of return.

Church Members in Action

Members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints have a vital role to play in the work of caring for those in need. As part of our covenant to love God and love our neighbors, Church members fast for one day each month and generously donate the value of the meals missed to benefit other individuals and families within the Church who are in need.

In addition, Church members minister to their neighbors and community, offering their time, talents, compassion, materials, and financial means as part of the “Lord’s storehouse” of resources to help His children.

Emergency Relief

When disasters arise, Church members often donate their time and energy to help those impacted—regardless of their backgrounds or beliefs. In New Zealand, for example, members and missionaries worked with neighbors, communities, and government groups to clean up neighborhoods impacted by Hurricane Gabrielle. In South Korea, Church members were quick to offer their service when flooding caused significant damage in the North Chungcheong Province. Adult and youth volunteers worked together to clear damaged furnishings from homes and clean up debris.

Relief Society

Women of the Church were a great force for good in the world in 2023. In West Africa, Relief Society women hosted a joint environmental cleanup project with “Dynamic Sisters,” a Muslim women’s group in Gambia. And Relief Society members in Peru gathered food, water, toilet paper, and clothing for those affected by devastating floods in Lima.



Young men volunteer their time, sorting donations at their local Deseret Industries store.

Young Adults

Young adults in the Church have a great capacity to provide compassionate service for those in need. In Utah, for example, thousands of young adults gathered to assemble meal kits for the Million Meals project. Through their dedicated service, these young adults contributed to the Utah Food Bank's goal to pack one million meals to feed hungry children.

In Berlin, over 700 young adult members and friends of the Church gathered for a Europe-wide service conference to support the 2023 Special Olympics. They volunteered their time during the day helping to run this sporting event for those with disabilities.

Children and Youth

Service is a uniting force for children and youth within the Church. In Panama, for example, members of the Church's Primary program visited the SOS Children's Village. They played with the children in the facility and shared messages of peace and hope. Likewise, Marielle, a teenage member of the Church in Hawaii, used her platform as Miss Teen Philippines Hawaii to gather school supplies for over 100 students in need.

In the United States, Church youth have helped form clubs to carry out service in their communities. Dallas and Tiernan started one such club in their school in Colorado, attracting dozens of teenage members of multiple faith groups. Among other projects in 2023, the club helped maintain a community garden, made fleece blankets for hospice patients, and assisted individuals seeking refuge within their community.

“Look around you. Where can you contribute? Where can you love? Where can you serve? Because He’s placed you there for a reason, and you have a mission and a purpose there.”

—SISTER KRISTIN M. YEE,
SECOND COUNSELOR IN THE
RELIEF SOCIETY GENERAL PRESIDENCY³

While many Church members serve within their local communities, some choose to devote even more of their time to humanitarian work. Many senior couples and young adults fill a part-time service missionary role, in which they organize and participate in projects to care for those in need within their communities.

Married couples may opt to serve as full-time welfare and self-reliance missionaries. These couples devote their time to administering humanitarian projects in their assigned area.

Full-time proselytizing missionaries participate in service projects as part of their ministry—separate from their work teaching about the Savior. These missionaries assist with emergency response initiatives as they arise.

“Calls to serve the Lord and each other . . . give opportunity to increase in compassion, capacity, and humility.”

—ELDER GERRIT W. GONG,
QUORUM OF THE
TWELVE APOSTLES⁴

Missionaries Serving Others

Service Initiatives

Throughout their missions, missionaries have opportunities to serve on a variety of assignments. Employment Services missionaries, for example, help individuals within the Church to prepare for and find employment opportunities. Missionaries may serve at Church-owned orchards and farms, bishops’ storehouses, and Transitional Services offices. Some missionaries also serve in a humanitarian capacity, coordinating projects and providing service with local nonprofits.

Disaster Relief

Every year, millions of people are impacted by disasters and emergencies. Missionaries are often called upon to offer their assistance in these unforeseen events. They help restore hope through their generous service to any who may be affected.

In Ecuador, for example, missionaries traveled up to three hours to help those who were suffering after the province of Esmeraldas was impacted by severe flooding. They helped shovel mud from the streets and from homes and properties that had been damaged by the storm.

In Guam, missionaries united with other volunteers to assist the community after massive winds and rains from Typhoon Mawar destroyed houses and local businesses. They helped clean debris, repair roof damage, clear uprooted trees, distribute clean water, and coordinate relief efforts. They also helped distribute clean clothing, as many had lost their personal belongings in the disaster.

Community Service

Missionaries also volunteer their time and effort to assist the communities in which they teach, serve, and live. These efforts help to care for those in need and strengthen communities in a variety of ways. For instance, in Washington, D.C., full-time missionaries provided service for the Smithsonian Folklife Festival. This service helped to educate the community on contemporary cultural traditions, bringing people of different faiths and backgrounds together.

In Panama, missionaries gathered with other volunteers for a day of service, cleaning up the coasts, collecting food and other necessities, delivering personal hygiene kits, and serving at a home for the elderly.

Elder Dean serves his community by providing facility maintenance at the Blind Center of Nevada. Elder Dean said, “For the rest of my life, I . . . want to dedicate it towards helping others, not just looking out for myself.”⁵



Top: Sister missionaries in France help a woman pack and carry boxes. Left: A service missionary provides service at the Church's Global Distribution Center. Top right: Senior sister missionaries lead a 12-step program with female prisoners. Bottom right: A senior missionary serves by helping with the landscaping outside a historic Church site in Utah.

JustServe is available
in 17 countries

2,037 new organizations
added to JustServe in 2023

WHAT CAN I DO?

- Find out which organizations need help in your community.
- See if JustServe is available in your area.
- Visit JustServe.org, register, and join the movement!

“JustServe . . . is a movement and a way that we can live our covenants . . . [and] bless and strengthen [the] community.”

—BISHOP GÉRALD CAUSSÉ,
PRESIDING BISHOP⁶

JustServe

JustServe is a movement to build peace, love, and unity in our communities. It links individuals and groups to local projects, promoting positive impact and unity while inspiring hope through shared acts of goodness. JustServe facilitates collaboration among various organizations, schools, and faith-based communities to make a meaningful difference and cultivate a spirit of service.

Serve, No Matter Your Age

When Evan (10) noticed his local food bank was short on jam, he sprang into action. With his mother’s assistance, he made a video asking for donations of jams and jellies from friends and family, which spread quickly on social media. Evan’s schoolmates also joined in, organizing a competition to see which class could collect the most jars. The response was overwhelming, eventually yielding 702 jars. Evan’s story goes to show that one person can have a profound impact—regardless of their age.

Serve from Anywhere

During the Alberta wildfires in May, community members used JustServe to partner with local leaders and officials to support evacuated residents. Sarah, the JustServe specialist in Central Alberta, helped facilitate communication and coordination through a dedicated wildfire recovery page on JustServe.org. As a result, affected residents were able to receive the support they needed—even though many of the donations came from people outside their community.

Serve Your Neighbor

As the Maternal Outcomes Matter Showers (MOMS) tour has traveled around the United States in 2023, volunteers have used the JustServe platform to coordinate volunteer efforts. Collaborating with local organizations like A Chance to Learn and CocoLife.Black, JustServe volunteers in multiple cities helped to run “baby showers” for expectant mothers in inner-city communities. As a result, these mothers have enjoyed better access to local resources, which in turn leads to improved maternal and infant outcomes.



Left: Women of multiple faith groups participate in a JustServe project in their community. Right: Evan and his schoolmate collect donated jars of jams and jellies at school.



Children receive education inside a Liberian refugee camp in Ghana. Photo courtesy of the Matthew Cares Foundation School.

Global Initiatives

“When we are engaged in service to others, we think less about ourselves, and the Holy Ghost can more readily come to us and help us in our lifelong quest to have the gift of charity bestowed upon us.”

—PRESIDENT HENRY B. EYRING,
SECOND COUNSELOR IN THE FIRST PRESIDENCY⁷

2023 Summary of Efforts



4,119
HUMANITARIAN
PROJECTS IN 2023



\$1.36 billion
IN EXPENDITURES



6.2 million
HOURS
VOLUNTEERED



191
COUNTRIES AND
TERRITORIES SERVED

EXPENDITURES INCLUDE

Aid Offered Generally

- Global humanitarian projects
- Donations of food and other goods

Aid Offered Primarily to Church Members

- Fast-offering assistance
- Bishops' orders for goods
- Services from welfare and self-reliance operations

SERVICE HOURS INCLUDE

- Volunteerism at Church welfare and self-reliance facilities (bishops' storehouses, canneries, farms, orchards, employment centers, etc.)
- Missions to care for those in need in many countries
- Church-sponsored community service projects, including cleanup after disasters.

"[These] figures are, of course, an incomplete report of our giving and helping. They do not include the personal services our members give individually as they minister to one another in called positions and voluntary member-to-member service. And our [summary] makes no mention of what our members do individually through innumerable charitable organizations not formally connected with our Church."

—PRESIDENT DALLIN H. OAKS,
FIRST COUNSELOR IN THE FIRST PRESIDENCY⁸

2023 at a Glance



CARING FOR THOSE IN NEED

Service by Members and Missionaries

7,959,670

Relief Society members worldwide

11,368

Welfare and self-reliance missionaries



JUSTSERVE

Community Service Platform

119,461

New JustServe users registered

17,502

New JustServe projects created



WORLDWIDE AID

Global Humanitarian Initiatives

206

Clean water, hygiene, and sanitation projects

415

Emergency relief projects

601

Healthcare projects

64

Mobility projects

530

Food security projects



BUILDING SELF-RELIANCE

Programs and Services

530

Education projects

10,112

Deseret Industries associates served

2,926

Addiction recovery meetings per week

110,019

Self-reliance group participants



Left: A member of the Church in Maui carries supplies donated to help with wildfire relief. Right: Volunteers pick up supplies to assist with hurricane relief in Florida.

415 emergency relief projects

94 countries aided

113 emergency projects aiding displaced persons

WHAT CAN I DO?

- Become a certified volunteer through an organization that assists with emergency response situations.
- Prepare for potential emergencies by creating your own personal emergency plans.
- Contact a nonprofit that supports refugees in your area to see how you can help.

Emergency Relief

When it comes to providing relief following a crisis, the focus often centers on meeting the physical needs of those affected. It is important, however, to not overlook the emotional challenges that they may also be experiencing. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints seeks to provide both physical and psychological aid to all who may be impacted by an emergency.

Emotional and Psychological Aid

Last year, the area of Lahaina on the island of Maui was devastated by wildfires, leaving most residents homeless. In addition to providing emergency shelter, the Church also sent Family Services counselors to provide psychological first aid to Church members who had been impacted by the disaster. The counselors were able to comfort those who lost family members or homes and who witnessed others suffer.

In Ukraine, Family Services provided virtual emotional support seminars for individuals impacted by war. Topics included teaching survivors healthy coping skills and ways to stay calm during an emergency. They also provided a virtual forum on post-traumatic stress disorder.

Family Services also worked to provide Church leaders and members with resources like *Tips for Emotional Preparedness* and *Being Prepared Through Emotional Resilience*. These resources help individuals be emotionally prepared to face life challenges and emergency situations.



Left: A child in Yemen who has been displaced from his home sits on top of donated shelter materials. Photo courtesy of ShelterBox. Right: Volunteers high five while clearing debris after a flood in California.

Physical Aid

In southern Türkiye and northern Syria, millions of people were impacted by successive earthquakes that devastated the region. The Church was quick to respond, working with multiple relief organizations in the affected areas. The Church helped to set up hundreds of temporary, prefabricated homes, as well as five mobile field hospitals with surgical units to replace damaged medical facilities.

In May, thousands of people in Malawi were displaced when the area was impacted by a 36-day tropical cyclone (the longest in recorded history). In addition to providing tents, blankets, and support to mobile clinics, the Church also sheltered hundreds of community members who had lost their homes. Church members shared food with these individuals, arranged travel to help some be with family members, and cared for others until they could find suitable housing.



A mother and child reside in a temporary shelter after a flood destroyed their home and belongings in Pakistan. Photo courtesy of Shelterbox.

Humanitarian Assistance in Israel and Gaza

In line with its stated aim to provide humanitarian assistance around the world, including areas of conflict, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints collaborated with multiple international relief agencies in Gaza and Israel to provide significant financial resources for critical medical and mental health care, among other needs.

“Who is our neighbor? Everyone is our neighbor . . . We reach out to everyone, whatever their circumstances may be, wherever they may be from, whatever race or religion. We’re here to bless everyone that we can bless.”

—BISHOP W. CHRISTOPHER WADDELL,
FIRST COUNSELOR IN THE PRESIDING BISHOPRIC¹⁰

Clean Water and Sanitation

As a key humanitarian priority, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints seeks to support all who need access to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene (also known as WASH). To accomplish this work, the Church collaborates with other organizations and local communities around the globe to improve access to these services and strengthen overall systems, ensuring that solutions are long-lasting and promote self-reliance.

Sustainable Management of Clean Water for All

In Sierra Leone, the Church and WaterAid worked together to bring thousands of community members access to clean water. As a result of this project, residents have better sanitation services and knowledge of hygiene behavior practices. “With the training, I have been able to promote menstrual hygiene management for girls in my school and also do routine checks of the toilets and changing rooms to make sure water is always available,” said Hawa, a health club facilitator at one of the schools impacted by this project.

Community Efforts for WASH

In 2023, the Church worked with Water for People to help communities in Guatemala become free of open defecation. Through this project, community members were able to access durable materials to build family bathrooms that could withstand the harsh weather conditions of the area. Likewise, in Papua New Guinea and Liberia, the Church and WaterAid collaborated to install safe water taps for communities and schools. The project also included education for affected communities on how to use and maintain the taps.

WHAT CAN I DO?

- Identify clean water and sanitation needs in your community.
- Learn about clean water access in your area and how you can get involved.

112 clean water projects

94 sanitation and hygiene projects

Projects implemented throughout 73 countries

Blessing the Community through Service

Jorge, a farmer from Bolivia, always wanted to build a well system to provide clean water for his community. With the help of Water for People and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, his dream finally became a reality.

“It’s unbelievable that now we just open the tap and have water,” said Jorge. As a result of this new well, Jorge reports that the children are cleaner and are freer to go to school. Farmers in the community also have more water to irrigate crops. “Someday I will be able to die at peace,” he says, “because I’ll know all the families here have water.”⁹



Left: A woman and young girl wash their hands. Photo courtesy of Water for People. Right: A woman helps her granddaughter drink clean water from the tap in Timor-Leste. Photo courtesy of WaterAid/Tariq Hawari.



Education

The Church seeks to further self-reliance by creating opportunities for people around the world to learn, progress, and reach their fullest potential. Education plays a vital role in reducing poverty, improving health, and strengthening societies. Gains in education are also linked to economic growth and peaceful conflict resolution. Education instills hope and encourages action.

Resources for Church Members

Two key Church resources designed to support Church members' education goals are the **Perpetual Education Fund (PEF)** and **BYU-Pathway Worldwide**. PEF is a financial aid program to help students complete education programs that provide in-demand skills for employment or self-employment. BYU-Pathway Worldwide offers students access to affordable higher education online.

Other education resources made available to Church members include:

- **The Benson scholarship program**, which helps members obtain post-secondary education in nutrition and agriculture-related fields.
- **EnglishConnect**, which provides free English instruction for Church members and others.

Resources Provided Generally

The Church's humanitarian efforts provide textbooks, desks, chairs, teacher training, classroom refurbishment, and more to help students enjoy better access to high-quality education. Among hundreds of other education-related projects in 2023, the Church donated furnishings, books, and other supplies to rural schools in Tonga that were lacking resources.

349 Benson Scholarships awarded

530 education projects

Projects implemented throughout 97 countries

Funding Education to Build a Better Future

Argentiniens Alfredo and Nadia faced a difficult decision: build a better future by continuing with their studies or maintain their standard of living by foregoing the expensive costs of education. It was beginning to look like the couple's dreams for the future were in jeopardy until Alfredo learned about the Perpetual Education Fund.

"I was able to access [a] loan, . . . complete my programming studies, and finish my degree successfully," Alfredo says. "My wife was also able to continue studying what she likes." Alfredo ultimately landed a great job, and Nadia completed her degree in human resources, opening doors to new opportunities.



Left: An EnglishConnect class gathers for an English lesson. Right: A young man on his way to school in Puerto Rico.

WHAT CAN I DO?

- Tell others about the Perpetual Education Fund.
- Volunteer at a local school.
- Gift a book to a child.



A job coach helps a Deseret Industries associate sort through donated items.

5,538 job placements

2,603 virtual workshops hosted

3,824 individualized vocational plans created

WHAT CAN I DO?

- Practice interview skills with a friend or family member seeking employment.
- Mentor job seekers at a local nonprofit.
- Share job opportunities you are aware of with those you know.

Employment

One of the ways the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints cares for those in need is by providing tools and services that help individuals prepare for and obtain employment that will lead to professional growth and stable income.

Employment Services

Employment Services helps individuals who are unemployed, reentering the workforce, or looking to improve their current employment situation. Employment counselors provide both in-person services as well as virtual help for those who do not live close to a center.

Employment Services provides a variety of support to help Church members and others. Counselors offer one-on-one coaching and Active Job Search groups, which help with everything from résumé writing and interview skills to networking. For those seeking to start a business, Employment Services also offers self-employment resources, including training, mentoring, and funding information.

Employment Services also offers online “Ask an Expert” forums, workshops, and webinars to teach job search skills. These resources can be found at Employment.ChurchofJesusChrist.org.

Development Counseling Services

Development counselors help people from all walks of life identify and overcome barriers to employment. Within each DI store, operations supervisors collaborate closely with development counselors to provide improved support for associates. Development

counselors are also available in other selected locations that are not currently served by DI stores.

Development counselors perform in-depth assessments to identify strengths, barriers, and strategies for progress toward employment and self-reliance. They can also help individuals deal with difficult emotions, manage stress, and make positive changes in their lives.

Humanitarian Center

Excess clothing received at the DI stores is sent to the Humanitarian Center, where it is sorted for distribution to people in need in various parts of the world.

Associates from the Humanitarian Center come from a wide range of countries and backgrounds. Many have fled from conflict, hunger, and other hardships in their home countries. They are given the opportunity to earn income as they work and attend English language classes (which are built into their workday).

Deseret Industries

In 2023, Deseret Industries (DI) celebrated its 85th anniversary. Since its inception, DI has helped individuals with barriers to employment find jobs and build a better future for themselves. DI now operates 46 locations in 8 U.S. states, serving up to 4,000 associates at any given time.

DI associates work in store facilities and train with local business partners, gaining valuable retail work experience and learning work habits and other essential life skills that will enable them to succeed in an industry of their choice. This work training program is also available to employees at Deseret Manufacturing, where associates produce basic wood furniture and sleep products. Associates meet regularly with an operations supervisor, who provides direction and encouragement.

Transitional Services

The Church also offers nine Transitional Services offices in Utah, Nevada, and Arizona. At these locations, Transitional Services staff and volunteers provide support for individuals of all backgrounds who need help integrating into their community. This could include people exiting correctional facilities, experiencing homelessness, or recovering from trafficking. These offices also provide services for veterans and for individuals who have immigrated from another country.

Transitional Services staff help these individuals with temporary assistance by providing food, clothing, bus fare, and other necessary items. Transitional Services works closely with Employment Support and Family Services to coordinate plans to help these individuals build their long-term self-reliance.

A Fresh Start on Life

After serving a two-year mission for the Church, Andre worked hard to obtain his bachelor's degree in kinesiology. However, physical health challenges from a previous accident led to an addiction to prescription drugs. After a period of homelessness, Andre sought help at a Transitional Services office.

The staff worked with Andre to assess his situation and come up with a plan. They worked with several community partners and local Church members to find subsidized housing. They also helped Andre join the Church's addiction recovery program and find a job, which gave him a fresh start on life.

“Now is the time we can bless others and ‘lift up the hands which hang down.’”

—PRESIDENT RUSSELL M. NELSON, PRESIDENT OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS¹¹



Left: Job seekers gather at an employment center to attend an Active Job Search group meeting. Center: A man in Mexico works in a restaurant. Right: A young service missionary and senior missionary, called to serve with Employment Services.

5,700 water shares donated
to the Great Salt Lake

140,000 trees donated
in Mongolia

1,153,000 commuter miles
reduced by Utah employees' use
of public transportation

WHAT CAN I DO?

- Learn what Church leaders and others have taught about taking care of the earth.
- Find ways to conserve energy, cut back on water usage, and reduce waste.
- Volunteer in disaster relief efforts to minimize the burdens caused by environmental challenges.

“We have an obligation to be good stewards, to pass to future generations an earth better than we found it through the habits and values of wise stewardship.”

—BISHOP L. TODD BUDGE,
SECOND COUNSELOR IN THE
PRESIDING BISHOPRIC¹²

Environmental Stewardship

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints believes that caring for the earth and its resources is closely tied to caring for those in need. In 2023, the Church made continued efforts to care for the environment through initiatives such as water and energy conservation and recycling. The Church also prioritizes sustainable solutions in humanitarian projects, using local resources and materials when possible.

Water Conservation

In 2023, the Church focused on developing water management plans for all of the Church’s agricultural properties and installed smart controllers, hydrometers, rain sensors, and drip irrigation systems at many Church facilities. This effort also included retrofitting several meetinghouse landscapes to test sustainable landscape principles and water conservation methods in drought-prone areas.

In March 2023, the Church donated 6.5 billion gallons of annual irrigation water to the Great Salt Lake in Utah, an area where drought is prevalent. The donation is one of the largest permanent donations of water ever received by the state and is equivalent to a perpetual water supply for 20,000 single-family homes. This water will continue to flow to the lake and will help preserve the environment around it.

Energy Conservation

As stewards of earthly resources, the Church is dedicated to carefully managing funds and natural resources. Among other energy conservation efforts in 2023, the Church installed solar panels on many of its meetinghouses around the world.

Recycling

In 2023, the Church began transitioning to 100%-recycled plastic cups for use in the sacrament. Deseret Industries also plays an important role by receiving, repurposing, and sometimes recycling donated items that would have otherwise ended up in a landfill.



Left: A mother and her children ride bicycles together in Japan. Center: A young Church service missionary plants flowers around the Ogden Temple. Right: Docks sit on dry ground at the Great Salt Lake.

Healthcare and Mobility

During Christ's mortal ministry, He took special care to minister to those with physical disabilities, infirmities, and ailments. The Church of Jesus Christ continues this mission today through its healthcare and mobility work around the world.

Immunizations

The Church actively participates in global vaccination efforts. One example is a Church-supported effort with UNICEF USA to enhance vaccination initiatives in Zambia. This initiative, undertaken with the local ministry of health and UNICEF USA, has made it easier for individuals to access measles and polio immunizations, which has reduced the number of outbreaks in the area. Church funding also supported UNICEF's efforts to train vaccinators in Afghanistan and Pakistan, as well as a Ministry of Health campaign in Peru to immunize children against polio and measles.

Construction, Expansion, and Refurbishment of Facilities

Upgraded medical facilities allow doctors and nurses to provide better care, which improves the state of public health generally. Among other efforts in 2023, the Church donated biomedical tools to a hospital in the Republic of Palau and provided funding and medical supplies to help renovate a hospital in the Bryansk region in Russia. The Church also funded the completion of a new rural health clinic in Zimbabwe and donated beds and medical equipment. As part of this project, the Church helped refurbish housing for clinic staff, provide solar power to the facilities, and drill a well to serve as a water source.

Vision Care

Vision care was a continuing humanitarian priority in 2023. The Church helped to fund projects throughout the world to treat cataracts and improve access to vision care services. In Mozambique, for example, the Church offered eye examinations and medical treatment to many individuals from remote, rural communities. In addition to other projects in 2023, the Church donated 500 intraocular lenses to be used in cataract surgeries in Malaysia, thousands of pairs of eyeglasses in Peru, and an auto refractor keratometer to improve vision screenings in Chiapas, Mexico.

WHAT CAN I DO?

- Donate unused crutches and other mobility aids to your local hospital.
- Learn about the importance of vaccines; share what you know with your friends and neighbors.
- Volunteer to facilitate local vision screenings and other health events.

25,786 wheelchairs donated

29 vision projects

73 maternal and newborn care projects

Providing Wheelchairs in Honduras

Thanks to a donation from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, hundreds of adults and children with mobility issues in San Pedro Sula received wheelchairs and postural support devices. As a result, they now enjoy greater independence and dignity.

This donation was just one of several made by the Church in 2023, impacting thousands of individuals around the globe.



A healthcare worker administers a polio immunization for a baby in Zambia. Photo courtesy of ©UNICEF/UN0663888/Schermbrucker.



Left: A child in Haiti enjoys a nutritious school meal. © WFP/Theresa Piorr. Right: A senior missionary picks berries at a Church-owned farm.

530 food security projects

71 nutrition projects

Projects implemented in 94 countries

“Jesus has a tender heart for children. He weeps to see them starve. And He rejoices at even the smallest effort to help them.”

—PRESIDENT CAMILLE N. JOHNSON, RELIEF SOCIETY GENERAL PRESIDENT¹³

Feeding the Hungry

Members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints practice principles of self-reliance, and we seek to help others do the same. For many struggling with hunger and other urgent temporal needs, however, it is difficult to focus on long-term self-reliance when short-term needs are not being addressed. The Church seeks to help these individuals by addressing immediate hunger needs, supporting improved nutrition, and promoting long-term food security.

Addressing Immediate Needs

To help address immediate hunger needs, the Church operates 123 bishops’ storehouses, where local Church leaders can arrange for members of their congregations to receive food and other items free of charge. These storehouses also donate products to hundreds of local food banks.

Three quarters of the total volume of commodities distributed from bishops’ storehouses comes from goods that are produced and/or processed through Church farms, orchards, livestock operations, and processing plants. These operations are supported by volunteers, who may be Church members, community members, or volunteers from national organizations.

In locations without access to a bishops’ storehouse, leaders often make arrangements with local grocery stores to meet these needs. The Church also provides support to other organizations throughout the world that address hunger generally. Additionally, Church members frequently participate in food drives to meet needs within their own communities.

Nutrition

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is committed to alleviating malnutrition and is uniquely positioned to organize grassroots efforts in local communities.

In 2023, the Church continued support for its child nutrition efforts, including an initiative led by the Church's Relief Society that supports Church members whose children are malnourished. Through this initiative, local Church leaders and members receive training on the common signs of malnutrition and how to conduct a nutrition screening. The initiative also provides support to help Church members access local health and clinical services, nutritional supplementation, immunizations, and other aid to reduce malnutrition risks.

As part of its humanitarian efforts, the Church also provided general support to rural farmers with nutrient-dense crop production and worked with community health systems to strengthen education and access to therapeutic foods. By working with qualified organizations like CARE, Helen Keller International, Catholic Relief Services, Save the Children, iDE, the Hunger Project, UNICEF, and the World Food Programme, the Church was able to help high-risk families of all backgrounds receive critically-timed supplemental food sources, ensuring that new mothers and children have access to the nutrition they need to grow.

Food Security

Global food security continued to be a humanitarian priority in 2023. In Senegal, the Church helped MyAgro purchase agricultural inputs, such as fertilizer, and provided training for thousands of farmers, helping to promote long-term agricultural sustainability. The Church also worked with iDE Zambia to improve access to inputs and markets for thousands of farmers, helping them to increase their incomes and improve food security within the region.

Additionally, the Church supported several projects to improve food security through urban and family gardens. For instance, in the Philippines, the Church teamed with the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Plant Industry to launch an urban agriculture project in San Juan City. This project helps community members implement sustainable urban farming practices by cultivating their own produce, thereby reducing reliance on external food sources.

Access to Food Enhances Self-Reliance

In 2023, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints worked with The Hunger Project to establish centers in Burkina Faso where local communities can congregate to share resources, including a mill to grind grain.

This project had a significant impact on Hinmin, a mother of four, who previously had to walk long distances and wait in long lines to access the only mill in the village. Now she spends less time and money at the mill and gets her flour more quickly, which gives her more time to earn an income and support her children.

WHAT CAN I DO?

- Volunteer at and donate to your local food pantry.
- Start a community garden to address hunger needs in your area.
- Talk to your friends and family about hunger in your community and what they can do to help.



A couple works on their garden in Taiwan.

374 projects serving
the homeless

11,063 individuals who accessed
transitional services resources

Starting Again in a New Country

Nadia and her family moved to the United States in 2023. Because of health problems, she and her husband struggled to find work in their new home—despite being highly educated.

With help from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, as well as Lao Family Community Development, Nadia and her husband were able to receive financial support to cover their rent and avoid homelessness. As a result of this aid at a critical time, Nadia and her husband were able to focus on finding employment, leading to greater self-reliance.

WHAT CAN I DO?

- Volunteer at a local evacuation center or your local Red Cross or Red Crescent office.
- Sponsor a family seeking refuge in your area.
- Talk to your neighbors about the needs of those experiencing homelessness in your community.

Housing Support

There are many reasons why individuals might experience homelessness. Homelessness might be a temporary circumstance caused by a natural disaster, conflict, or another extreme situation. In other cases, homelessness might be the result of job loss, mental health challenges, addiction, or simply bad circumstances. Regardless of the cause, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints provides significant humanitarian aid to address housing concerns in a way that provides privacy, safety, and dignity to all.

Addressing Homelessness

The Church operates nine Transitional Services offices in the United States. Staff at these offices are trained to help those experiencing homelessness to feel love and support as they seek to improve their circumstances. Transitional Services helps with immediate temporal needs and refers individuals to local community resources for support with mental health, addiction, or employment needs. Elsewhere in the United States and throughout the world, the Church provides humanitarian funding and donations to support organizations that serve individuals experiencing homelessness.

Emergency Shelter

Among other efforts in 2023, the Church collaborated with Shelterbox to provide tents for over a thousand families displaced by conflict in Yemen. The Church also opened meetinghouses as temporary shelters and provided hotel vouchers to residents who had been displaced by wildfires in Maui.

Helping the Vulnerable

The Church worked with several organizations to aid vulnerable communities at a higher risk of experiencing homelessness (such as those seeking refuge or asylum). For instance, the Church worked with the Pastoral Dimension of Human Mobility of the Conference of the Mexican Episcopate to donate equipment to eleven shelters and four community kitchens, helping thousands of people access shelter, clothing, legal assistance, and more.



Left: A displaced family in Syria is given a shelter kit and other needed materials. Photo courtesy of ShelterBox USA. Right: Local volunteers help prepare beds at a homeless shelter in California.

Mental Health

Mental and emotional struggles can cause people to feel limited in their ability to connect with others or fully contribute to the world around them. By seeking treatment for these challenges, they can often feel greater joy and fulfillment and learn to be more resilient.

Through a referral from their bishop, members of the Church who are facing mental or emotional challenges can receive care and resources from Family Services at no charge. Family Services also provides consultations for Church leaders to support their efforts to minister to members in need. Counseling is available to individuals, couples, families, single expectant parents, and missionaries of the Church.

One resource offered through Family Services is *Healing through the Savior: The Addiction Recovery Program*. The program provides support to Church members and others who struggle with compulsive behaviors and also offers support groups for their family members. The Church also offers self-reliance groups on *Finding Strength in the Lord: Emotional Resilience*, which help participants learn skills for withstanding life’s challenges.

Additionally, Family Services provides emotional care during crises. For example, in 2023, teams of professional counselors were deployed to Maui, Hawaii, to provide emotional support to Church members impacted by the devastating wildfires.

WHAT CAN I DO?

- Demonstrate Christlike love and kindness to your neighbors; you never know what they’re going through.
- Support the addiction recovery program and emotional resilience groups in your area.
- Get “Question, Persuade, Refer” training to know how to support those around you who may be having thoughts of suicide.

218,170 counseling hours

97 countries served
by Family Services

2,926 addiction recovery
meetings per week

Finding Hope Again

When Lucy* learned that Family Services had established a support group in Europe for survivors of sexual abuse, she felt a renewed sense of hope and belonging. These groups are offered by the Church and facilitated by trained counselors.

As a result of her participation, Lucy began to learn how her experience had affected her psychologically, emotionally, and spiritually. “Hope left me a long time ago,” says Lucy, “but now it is coming back.”

**name has been changed*

“What a blessing it is that we can . . . help bring emotional, spiritual, and physical relief to those around us.”

—SISTER J. ANETTE DENNIS,
FIRST COUNSELOR IN THE RELIEF
SOCIETY GENERAL PRESIDENCY¹⁴



Left: A young woman smiles as she admires the view with her friends. Center: An addiction recovery group meeting. Right: Church members lead and participate in an emotional resilience course.

Self-Reliance

Members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints believe in being self-reliant. When we are capable of caring for ourselves, we can better focus on the Savior's two great commandments: to love God and to love our neighbor.

Self-Reliance Groups

The Church offers several groups that are designed to help members build self-reliance. Participants may learn how to start a business, manage finances, find a job, and more. The impact can be significant.

Oswaldo, for instance, lost both his hands in a terrible accident when he was a child. He wanted to become self-reliant, so he attended several of the Church's self-reliance groups in his hometown in Paraguay. In these groups, he learned personal finance and job search skills, as well as how to be emotionally resilient. As a result, he was able to get a telemarketing job, then start his own printing and photography business.

Humanitarian Efforts

While the Church works to meet immediate needs through numerous humanitarian efforts, it is always with the goal to lift individuals toward long-term self-reliance.

In South Dakota, for example, the Church donated food processing equipment to members of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate tribe to provide them with additional means to support themselves. The Church also collaborated with the nonprofit Upwardly Global to help educated immigrants across the United States receive credentials to continue their careers as doctors, dentists, teachers, or other roles.



A self-reliance group meets together in South Africa.

14,643 self-reliance groups were conducted

110,019 participants completed a group

90 countries with participants

Building Self-Reliance through New Skills

After spending her teenage years battling addiction, Amy started attending Alcoholics Anonymous meetings and working to maintain her sobriety. Because of her background, however, she struggled to obtain a job that would allow her to support her children.

That's when she found Pawsperity, a nonprofit dog grooming school designed to help those in need become more self-reliant. Thanks to a donation from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Pawsperity was able to triple the number of students it helps. Amy was able to enroll in the program and learn not only pet grooming skills, but also life skills such as mindfulness, self-awareness, and communication.

WHAT CAN I DO?

- Sign up for a self-reliance group in your area.
- Share your skills by teaching a class in your community.
- Volunteer for a project that helps others to build self-reliance.



Two community members hug each other following the wildfires in Maui.

Worldwide Aid

“For almost a decade, the World Food Programme and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints have partnered to provide food and other critical assistance to the most vulnerable people around the world. At this time of unprecedented global need, we are grateful for the Church’s support, which offers a lifeline for millions of hungry people and hope for a better future.”

—BARRON SEGAR, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME USA



A woman in Ghana receives the gift of sight after cataract surgery. Photo courtesy of Daybreak Vision Project.

572 humanitarian projects

57 clean water, hygiene, and sanitation projects

131 food security/nutrition projects

WHAT CAN I DO?

- Participate in a community gardening project.
- Talk with your local school about ongoing needs.
- Teach someone what you know about caring for a newborn (or learn more yourself).

“The Church’s partnership is . . . transforming lives and ensuring no one is left behind.”

—EVELYN MERE,
DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMMES,
WATERAID NIGERIA

Africa

In 2023, the Church worked to reduce poverty and increase food security and access to clean water, sanitation facilities, education, and medical services across Africa. This work is building a better foundation for the communities served and reflects the Church’s commitment to address basic needs and preserve human dignity.

Food and Clean Water Access

In Kenya, the Church collaborated with BOMA, a nonprofit that aims to improve food security and nutrition, foster sustainable livelihoods, train beneficiaries on financial shock preparedness, and support education. More than 1,000 participants received training in setting up “kitchen gardens,” where their communities can source locally grown vegetables. This resulted in 204 gardens that are now providing households with access to nutritious foods.

In Hhohho, Eswatini, the Church and WaterAid worked together to bring clean water to over 1,200 people in the community. The project included a hydrogeological survey and provided construction, labor, and machinery, resulting in two solar-powered water systems.



A mother and child receive shelter and nutrition support at the Ifo refugee camp in Kenya.



Left: A woman shows her market stall during President Camille N. Johnson's of the General Relief Society presidency and Bonnie H. Cordon's of the General Young Women's Presidency ministry visits in Africa. Right: A mother in Madagascar pours clean water on her daughter's hands.

Education

In the remote village of Ngaremara, Kenya, the Church worked with BOMA to facilitate entrepreneurship for local women, providing them with a sustained source of income for their families and a way to increase their status in their communities. Through mentorship and training, the women learned how to understand the cost of goods in the market. For instance, they learned to buy supplies in large quantities to reduce frequent transportation costs and increase their profits.

Healthcare and Disabilities

In Abuja, Nigeria, the Church donated medical equipment to the Federal Medical Center, including dialysis machines and chairs, baby incubators and cots, hospital beds, and patient monitors. Additionally, the Church helped build a reverse osmosis plant to provide the dialysis unit with clean water.

The Church also prioritized newborn and maternal care, working with the local government in Enugu, Nigeria, to provide hands-on training in newborn resuscitation and other skills. In addition, the Church worked with UNICEF to co-create mentorship programs in Tanzania, Kenya, and Ethiopia, establishing learning hubs to improve the quality of maternal and newborn care.

Outside of Harare in Zimbabwe, volunteers finished construction of a new clinic with bathrooms and showers. Church personnel coordinated with the local health ministry to improve housing for the clinic staff and provide clean water through a solar-powered borehole. Over 3,500 community members in Rwizi benefited from this effort.

Blessing Not One but Many

Raphael is a farmer in Zambia who struggled with low yields in his onion fields, as well as frequent problems with pests and diseases. Through iDE (International Development Enterprises) in Zambia—with support from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints—Raphael was able to receive training about sustainable development techniques that could increase his production of onions and other profitable crops. iDE also provided onion seeds and helped install a drip irrigation kit in his field.

With this help, Raphael has improved crop production and resistance to pests. He was so successful that he was selected by iDE Zambia to train other farmers on the production of onions, tomatoes, groundnuts, and other crops—thereby enabling him to bless others with increased access to food and income.



Left: A family receives vision care at an eye care center in India. Right: Two men in Thailand work in their garden.

305 humanitarian projects

81 education projects

78 hospital improvement projects

WHAT CAN I DO?

- Visit the sick at your local hospital.
- Volunteer to tutor or read to children in your area.
- Teach others about handwashing and other best practices to avoid sickness.

Asia

Among other efforts, the Church worked in 2023 to address issues of healthcare, education, and clean water and sanitation throughout Asia. This work shows that even the smallest contributions can make a world of difference to someone in need.

Healthcare

In many areas of Asia, hospitals are hampered by a lack of access to training, up-to-date equipment, and adequate facilities. In 2023, the Church focused on improving healthcare throughout the region, particularly in Cambodia. At the Kampong Thom Provincial Hospital, for instance, the Church helped renovate several buildings, provided new equipment, and helped train medical staff on laparoscopic surgeries and neonatal resuscitation. As a result, thousands of people in the region are able to access needed medical care and enjoy shorter recovery times and lower mortality rates.

Among other efforts, the Church also provided:

- Neonatal resuscitation and stabilization training for medical professionals in rural communities of Indonesia.
- Sonography machines, delivery beds, and other medical equipment in Malaysia.
- Ambulance spinal boards, as well as infusion and syringe pumps to be used in intensive care units in Thailand.



A mother and her daughter at a park in Hong Kong.

Education

In 2023, the Church worked to promote education for students throughout Asia. In Cambodia, for instance, students were able to enjoy new roofs, floors, washrooms, water pumps, and other hygienic facilities at their schools, allowing them to focus more on their schooling. Likewise in Mongolia, the Church worked with government and school officials in Tov Aimag to provide 1,000 backpacks to young students whose parents could not afford school supplies.

Clean Water and Sanitation

Access to clean water enhances safety and self-reliance for all. In Turkmenistan, the Church worked with Caritas to restore and expand two water supply systems and provide training on sanitation, hygiene, and safe waste handling practices, benefiting thousands of residents.

In Baganuur, Mongolia, the Church worked with the local water department to install ultraviolet water sterilization equipment at all pumping stations in the area. This allowed tens of thousands of people in Baganuur to enjoy access to clean water at all pump stations in the area.

A Better Life after a Disaster

When a 5.6 magnitude earthquake shook West Java, Indonesia, Ibu and her husband lost their home. With help from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and other non-governmental organizations, Ibu and her husband received an aid package that helped them set up a temporary shelter over their home and begin to rebuild their lives.

As a result of that aid, Ibu was able to open a small shop and begin to earn a living for her family, which has helped them as they have continued to recover from this disaster.

“The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints enables us to reach the most vulnerable communities across the world with vital aid when they need it most.”

—KERRI MURRAY, PRESIDENT OF SHELTERBOX USA

99 education projects

54 healthcare projects

28 emergency response projects

Seeing a Bright Future Ahead

James, an academic adviser at a university in Solomon Islands, lost his sight due to diabetes-induced cataracts. This challenge hindered his employment and his ability to care for his two young children. James was blind for nine months before he was able to get his sight back through surgery at the country's Regional Eye Centre. This surgery was possible thanks to a Church contribution of surgical equipment to the Fred Hollows Foundation NZ.

"I praise the Lord for being able to see again," James says. "I have a bright future ahead of me."

WHAT CAN I DO?

- Read to a child.
- Give a neighbor a ride to the doctor's office.
- Learn how to make nutrient-rich meals and share what you've learned with friends and family.

Australia, Philippines, and the Pacific

Residents of the Pacific are faced with frequent natural disasters, including typhoons, floods, volcanic eruptions, and earthquakes. In many locations, there are also needs related to clean water and education. The Church has been active in addressing each type of challenge.

Natural Disasters

In 2023, many schools in the Pacific nations sustained damages from typhoons and flooding. In response, the Church provided construction materials and furnishings to renovate classrooms. In Australia, the Church also supported rebuilding efforts after devastating floods in the Central West region.

Education

In the Philippines, the Church collaborated with World Possible to provide community hotspots known as RACHEL servers to rural schools without internet access, allowing them to provide a higher-quality education to students.

Water and Sanitation

Persistent drought and rising sea levels have led to a water crisis in the island nation of Kiribati. The salt content of the water sources on the outer islands have made them increasingly unsafe to drink. In response, the Church is working with CDE Suez Pacific to design and install water desalination units in five outer-island communities that will provide 5,000 residents with safe drinking water for years to come.



Young women participate in a service project in Australia.

The Caribbean

In 2023, the Church focused its efforts in the Caribbean on healthcare and employment.

Healthcare

In the Dominican Republic, 24 students were able to receive biomedical technician training thanks to scholarships provided by the Church. The Church also provided an ultrasound machine to improve maternal care at the Regional Maternity Hospital in Santa Cruz de Mao.

Employment

To help address unemployment, the Church worked with the Innovati Foundation to educate Church members in the Dominican Republic on how to run a business. As part of this project, participants received six months of mentoring, allowing them to receive individualized help growing their business.

Receiving Aid and Hope

Margarita had weathered many storms in her life before Hurricane Fiona hit her home in Puerto Rico. Due to advanced age, however, she found herself struggling on this occasion to leave home and purchase the items she needed.

Fortunately, local volunteers brought her hygiene kits filled with soap, shampoo, toothpaste, and other supplies. These hygiene kits—supplied by Project HOPE with funding from the Church—were made available to help elderly or vulnerable residents, like Margarita.

28 healthcare projects

26 emergency response projects

22 education projects

WHAT CAN I DO?

- Volunteer at a nonprofit in your community.
- Meet with local civic leaders to learn more about their priorities for public health care.
- Refer a friend to one of the Church's self-reliance groups on starting a business.

“The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to supporting UNICEF’s mission to reach children around the world with lifesaving health and nutrition services.”

—MICHAEL J. NYENHUIS,
PRESIDENT AND CEO OF UNICEF USA



A surgeon in the Dominican Republic prepares to perform a medical procedure.



Left: A family in Bolivia feeds their young children a nutritious meal. Right: A man helps with a service project in Peru.

39 education projects

33 emergency response projects

75 healthcare projects

WHAT CAN I DO?

- Volunteer at a local nonprofit that helps those impacted by natural disasters.
- Donate educational supplies to your local schools.
- Check out [JustServe.org](https://www.justserve.org) to find opportunities to help the sick in your area.

Central America and South America

In 2023, Church humanitarian efforts in Central and South America focused largely on the support of emergency response, education, and healthcare.

Natural Disasters

Among other efforts, the Church collaborated with local leaders to provide aid to those impacted by flooding and landslides in São Paulo, Brazil. Donations included items such as mattresses and other bedding, hygiene supplies, and cleaning materials. Church members also played a crucial role, actively volunteering to ensure the distribution of these provisions to those in need.

Likewise, when multiple wildfires broke out across Chile, the Church mobilized to provide aid. In addition to providing tools to help local communities clear debris, local Church leaders coordinated to help restore damaged water connections. Church members also rallied to collect and prepare donations of food, diapers, and toiletries to benefit those affected by the fires.

Education

In Montevideo, Uruguay, hundreds of young Church members volunteered to assemble kits of school supplies for students in rural schools. This effort helped to improve school attendance and academic performance across the region.



Left: Students in El Salvador receive eyeglasses. Right: A man helps clean up after a wildfire in Chile.

The Church also worked to refurbish classrooms and provide donated equipment to assist in students’ learning. In Panama, for instance, the Church donated hundreds of computers to the Ministry of Education, helping hundreds of students receive greater access to online learning opportunities.

Healthcare

In 2023, Church members in Central and South America participated in blood drives to support local hospitals and patients. The Church also provided equipment, training, and other support to medical facilities and healthcare initiatives throughout the region. In El Salvador, for example, the Church collaborated with the National Institute of Santa Ana to provide eyeglasses to hundreds of students.



A young man participates in a service project in Peru.

An Instrument to Achieve Her Goals

For years, Shirly—a young woman from Guatemala—had no means to purchase her own wheelchair. Instead, she was forced to use a borrowed wheelchair, which unfortunately did not fit her condition or physical needs.

In 2023, however, all that changed. Thanks to a collaboration between The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and Fundabiem Guatemala, Shirly was able to receive a wheelchair that could be adjusted to her needs. She said, “This wheelchair . . . will be the instrument that will allow me to achieve my goals.”¹⁵

“By supporting programs in Central America, South America, and Africa, the Church has been one of our most influential partners to prove a model of sustainable delivery of water and sanitation services.”

—SAMSON HAILU-BEKELE,
CO-CEO OF WATER FOR PEOPLE

79 emergency response projects

37 emergency projects focused on aiding displaced persons

242 projects focused on aiding other vulnerable populations

Psychological and Physical Care Makes a Difference

When conflict destroyed her town in Ukraine, Olga and her family were forced to leave their home. The experience took a great toll on the family's mental and physical health, and they did not have the money to rent an apartment. Fortunately, they received help through a collaboration between Physicians for Human Rights and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Through this project, Olga has been able to receive needed medical and psychological care, as well as shelter. "We are very grateful to everyone who cares about us and helps us," says Olga.

WHAT CAN I DO?

- Find out more about the needs of vulnerable populations in your area.
- Comfort a friend or neighbor who may be experiencing a challenge in their lives.
- Volunteer for a community clean-up project.

Europe

In 2023, Church humanitarian activities in Europe focused largely on helping populations impacted by civil conflict and natural disasters, many of whom experienced needs for shelter and other basics, as well as mental and physical health care.

Emergency Response

Following the damage caused by massive earthquakes in February, the Church collaborated with Türkiye's Disaster and Emergency Management Authority and the Ministry of Health to provide extensive aid for survivors. As a result of this collaboration, five mobile hospitals and 500 housing containers were set up, and food, water, and hygiene supplies were provided to help thousands of individuals and families.

Helping Vulnerable Populations

In some areas of Europe, 2023 saw an upswing in the number of people struggling to maintain their own housing—either due to conflict or personal challenges. The Church responded with several projects to address homelessness, including a project in Italy with Progetto Arca to provide clothing and food for those in need. This included a mobile kitchen, which allowed for hot meals to be served to individuals in need across seven cities.

Mental and Physical Health

With the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, the Church offered psychological first aid and emotional care to individuals impacted by the violence and displacement. Church volunteers in Portugal also assembled awareness ribbons in support of breast cancer research. And in Russia, the Church donated devices to assist children with visual impairments and speech disorders.



Left: A group of refugees from Ukraine receive emotional support from counselors. Photo courtesy of MEDU. Right: Individuals experiencing homelessness in Rome wait in line to receive food and clothing. Photo courtesy of Progetto Arca.

The Middle East

In 2023, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints collaborated with multiple international relief agencies in Gaza and Israel to provide financial resources for critical medical and mental health care, among other needs. In addition, the Church worked to address a variety of needs throughout the Middle East, including healthcare, employment, and aid for vulnerable populations.

Healthcare

In the Kurdistan region of Iraq, the Church continued to support the Nursing Midwifery and Development Center. This ambitious joint initiative with local government and community organizations aims to enhance newborn and maternal health-care in the region by providing training and support for nurses and midwives. This project highlights the crucial role that women play in strengthening their communities.

Employment

In 2023, the Church continued its work to support employment efforts in the Middle East. For example, the Church worked with the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) to address the high unemployment rate in Jordan. Through this collaboration, the Church funded vocational training programs that helped Jordanian citizens, as well as many Syrian nationals in the country, to learn a trade and gain employment.

Aid for Vulnerable Populations

Church humanitarian aid in Morocco is making a significant impact on segments of the population often overlooked by society. Among other efforts in 2023, the Church provided outdoor activity spaces and dormitories for the Passerelle Autistic Center. This center teaches youth with autism basic skills to help them become more self-sufficient, as well as specialized skills in farming, sports, music, and the arts. These efforts increase the employability of and enhance the quality of life for the center's young residents.



A family in Pakistan gathers in a shelter after flooding displaced them from their home. Photo courtesy of ShelterBox.

53 projects focused on aiding women and children

25 healthcare projects

78 emergency response projects

WHAT CAN I DO?

- Donate baby blankets to your local hospital.
- Teach children in your community about hygiene and sanitation.
- Volunteer at a resettlement center that supports individuals seeking refuge in your community.

Flood Recovery in Pakistan

When floods approached Ghulam's village in Pakistan, she and her husband found it difficult to save anything from their home. Her pregnancy and his disability also prevented them from saving their livestock, which was their only means of income.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints worked with ShelterBox USA and Islamic Relief to provide cash grants to Ghulam and other families affected by the floods. With this grant, Ghulam is starting down the road to recovery, buying food, clothing, and goats to restart their family business.



Left: Young men leaders load up wood to benefit individuals living on Native American Reservations in the United States. Right: Volunteers prepare a homeless shelter in California.

200 projects focused on aiding women and children

170 shelter and housing projects

261 clean water and food security projects

WHAT CAN I DO?

- Share a meal with someone experiencing homelessness.
- Sponsor a neighborhood food drive.
- Learn more about the needs of women and children within your community. Talk about what you've learned with your friends and family.

North America

Among the many humanitarian projects undertaken in North American in 2023, the Church made extensive efforts to help individuals affected by homelessness, food insecurity, abuse, and natural disasters.

Housing

In Canada, the Church donated funds to the Old Brewery Mission homeless shelter, one of the oldest in the country. The contribution helped the shelter modernize its facilities and services, providing safer and healthier surroundings and increased privacy and dignity for residents. The renovated shelter will now be able to accommodate 197 individuals nightly.

The Church has also worked with multiple organizations to resettle individuals seeking refuge or asylum. These organizations include the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the International Rescue Committee, the United States Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, and many local agencies. In coordination with one local agency, Al-Masbaah, the Church helped purchase 500 foam mats and other supplies for refugees in Sacramento, California, who were sleeping on the floor.

Food and Water

In Mexico, the Church worked with the Building Hope Foundation to install two rainwater catch systems in Pachuquilla, a small community of about 40 families. These new systems, which included drains, filters, and storage tanks, provided families with access to clean water and irrigation for backyard gardens.



Left: Volunteers serve dinner at the Old Brewery Mission in Quebec. Right: A woman and her baby at The Chicago Citywide Community Baby Shower.

In the United States, the Church donated funds to Feeding America to help purchase food items for those in need. The Church also donated hundreds of truckloads of commodities to key food bank networks across the country.

In Canada, the Church donated commodities from bishops' storehouses to the Mustard Seed charitable organization in Alberta and provided cash donations to the Fort Saskatchewan and Daily Bread food banks to help them expand their distribution capacity.

Women and Children

In the United States, the Church sponsored a baby shower with the Church of God in Christ to connect over 400 pregnant women with community resources. In hopes of combating preventable deaths among Black mothers in South Chicago, the Church is also working with Melanated Midwives to increase doula training and connect at-risk mothers to critical medical services.

Projects to protect women and children from abuse and domestic violence were also undertaken. At the YWCA SafeChoice Domestic Violence Shelter, the Church provided housewares, bedding, kitchen items, air conditioning and more to improve the shelter's capacity to help women in need. As a result of the donations and renovations, the shelter will be able to serve over 400 individuals in the coming years.

Overcoming Homelessness and Giving Back

Nneka, a woman from California, struggled with addiction when she was evicted from her apartment with her daughter and grandchildren. Looking for a new place to live, she said, "I called everywhere, but no one could take us in. Finally, the Bay Area Rescue Mission said yes."¹⁶

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints collaborates with the Bay Area Rescue Mission, providing individuals like Nneka with the temporary shelter and support they need to work through challenges and get back on their feet. With this help, Nneka says she has been able to overcome her addiction, regain her focus, and even give back by helping other women and children.

"Your heartfelt contributions have made a significant difference in [the women and children's] lives."

—STEPHANIE SEWELL,
VICE PRESIDENT OF DEVELOPMENT,
BAY AREA RESCUE MISSION

Thank You

We would like to thank members and friends of the Church who have participated in so many ways in the work to care for those in need during the past year. This work would not be possible without your compassion and generosity toward those who are facing adversity throughout the world. We are grateful for all those who continuously seek ways to help their neighbors.

Thank you for all the donations, volunteer hours, and prayers that have added to this work. Even the smallest of efforts, when combined with the contributions of others, can accomplish extraordinary good. We hope that your service has blessed you with increased peace, brighter hope for the future, and greater charity for all God's children throughout the world.



Resources to Learn More

For more about our humanitarian work worldwide and how to become involved in your community, follow us at:



[@Caring.ChurchofJesusChrist](#)
[@DeseretIndustriesThrift](#)
[@JustServe.org](#)



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Learn more about the Church's commitment to care at Caring.ChurchofJesusChrist.org



Use the code to the left to download the JustServe app and get started on a local service project in your area.

To learn more, follow us at:

ChurchofJesusChrist.org | Caring.ChurchofJesusChrist.org | JustServe.org | DeseretIndustries.org | AddictionRecovery.ChurchofJesusChrist.org

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“Many times, what we do is not seen or known by others. However, God knows, and He blesses us when we serve in quiet, unseen ways.”

—PRESIDENT SUSAN H. PORTER, PRIMARY GENERAL PRESIDENT

*“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 SAINTS¹⁷

