

LightTheWorld Giving Machine

2026 Initiative Information and Participation Criteria

Overview

Light the World Giving Machines are a unique, fun, and memorable part of the annual Light the World Christmas initiative, sponsored by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Through this initiative, the Church invites all to follow teachings of Jesus Christ to “love thy neighbor” (Matthew 22:39).

How Does a Giving Machine Work?

These customized red vending machines are filled with cards, each representing a product or service needed by local and global nonprofit organizations. Donors review the offerings, select the items they wish to donate, and the nonprofit receives 100% of the funds to fulfill the request.



Giving Machine items will often include food, shelter, linens, beds, clothing, clean and sustainable water, employment and skills training, educational assistance, hygiene kits, healthcare services, farming tools and supplies, and live chickens, goats, sheep, pigs, and beehives. Items and prices will vary based on location and need.

Results

From 2017 to 2024, donations made at Giving Machines topped US \$48 million. (2025 donation totals will be reported in March 2026.)

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints covers all operating costs, ensuring that participating organizations receive 100% of every donation.

Participation Criteria

Participating in the Light the World Giving Machine initiative is reserved for nonprofit organizations that meet this criteria:

1. The Organization's programs and projects should:
 - i Seek to help those who are most vulnerable, without regard to race, religion, or nationality.
 - ii Attend to immediate needs while strengthening beneficiaries to better care for their future needs.
 - iii Be defensible by established humanitarian standards.
2. The Organization is registered as a nonprofit in local municipalities and countries. *(Nonprofit organizations in the United States require 501(c)(3) designation.)*
3. A minimum five-year track record as a successful provider of humanitarian services.
4. Provides a variety of goods and services with broad public appeal.
5. Organizations with international programs must operate in at least five countries.
6. All Giving Machine donations must be used to meet donor intent. *(Substitutions require prior approval.)* Funds collected and distributed through this initiative may not be used for any purpose that could compromise the public's trust in the initiative.
7. Giving Machine-related administrative fees must not exceed 10% of the funds that the Organization received from the Giving Machine initiative.
8. The Organization permits electronic transfer of funds *(e-deposit)*.
9. Within one year of receiving funds, the Organization will provide a thorough accountability report to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints detailing how the funds were used and their impact.
10. Actively promotes the initiative through the Organization's established channels.
11. Maintains an overall Charity Navigator score of at least 80%.
12. The Organization's overall administrative expenses are less than 20%.