

**Matthew 25 Grant
Spring 2016 cycle**

Applications for the ABCUSA Matthew 25 Grant Spring 2016 cycle were due by March 1. A total of 82 applications were received; 8 were not eligible to be considered at this time. At the discernment team meeting on Tuesday, March 22, 74 complete applications were reviewed and grant awards made from \$2,500 to \$500. Applicants were notified of the discernment team's decision; award letters and accompanying checks were mailed the following week.

A sampling of the funding requests include: diapers to needy families, warm coats, boots and gloves for children of low-income families, and several programs that send home backpacks full of food with elementary school children on Friday afternoons.

The discernment team discussed changing the grant disbursement cycle from twice a year to once per year. The number of applications has dramatically increased, creating not only a larger amount of work for ABCUSA staff but also for the discernment team as well. This new application process will begin with the fall 2016 cycle. Completed applications will be received by September 1. Announcements will be posted on the ABCUSA website. The discernment team will also review the RFP application and make adjustments to help facilitate the process.

The four contributions received so far in 2016 total \$25,544.73. The current total balance of the Abraham account is \$64,639.95.

--Tina Turner

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