

# ABCUSA MATTHEW 25 GRANT APPLICATION

A generous donor has given a sum of money through American Baptist Churches USA to be used for programs that address "housing, feeding, education and health with regard to the less fortunate." A panel will select recipients for grants of up to \$5,000 largely based on the degree to which the funds will be used to directly assist persons in poverty. Ministries must be in relationship with American Baptist Churches USA to be eligible to apply, and only one application per church or ministry will be considered per year. Grant funds may not be used to fund staff positions. Grant awards will be sent to the ABC church or organization, checks will not be made payable to an individual or ministry.

## 1. General Information:

Organization Name - Healthsigns Center, Inc – GAPS Ministries

Affiliation with ABCUSA (Check made payable to) The American Baptist Churches of Massachusetts

Mailing Address: 167 Prescott Street, Groton, MA 01450

Phone 978-448-5763

Federal Tax ID# 42-104696

Contact person: Richard Wolf

email – [paparwolf@mac.com](mailto:paparwolf@mac.com)

## 2. Please submit with your application a copy of:

- Your mission statement
- A financial statement FOR THIS MINISTRY. This can be a budget or projected budget, and should not exceed 2 pages. Church budgets are not acceptable.

3. How do you plan to use the requested funds? How will the funds specifically assist individuals battling poverty and its effects? (Please submit on separate sheet. Maximum of one page.)

4. Total cost of the project: \$7000

5. Amount being requested from the ABCUSA Matthew 25 Grant: \$4000

6. Your other funding source(s) Friends donations and In-kind donations

I certify that all the information submitted with this application is true and correct, and that we will use any granted funds as described. We will supply a 1-page report on the use of the funds and a photo within six months of receipt of the grant.

(Signed) *Rev. Anne M. Ierardi, D.Min.*

Date: August 27, 2015

Printed Name/Title Rev. Anne Ierardi, D. Min.

## Please note:

- Incomplete applications will not be considered.
- Recipients agree to share their stories via the ABCUSA website.
- Application deadline is March 1 for grants distributed on April 15; Sept. 1 for grants distributed on Oct. 15
- Completed applications should be sent via email to [Tina.Turner@abcusa.org](mailto:Tina.Turner@abcusa.org). Only electronic submissions will be accepted.

## 2) Vision and Mission of GAPS Ministries

GAPS Ministries invites today's seekers to touch God through small group ministries of caring connections, prayer, spiritual guidance, and the arts. The times today call for unique places where those who find themselves in the gaps, longing for a deeper faith life and sense of community, can share their gifts. GAPS Ministries has a special ministry to those healing from loss or illness, elders, persons in transition, and pastoral leaders.

GAPS Ministries are a mission of Healthsigns Spiritual Life Center, Inc. We have provided ministry on Cape Cod since 1993. Rev. Dr. Anne Ierardi is director and pastoral leader of the center. She is affiliated with the American Baptist Churches, USA and United Church of Christ.

### Financial Statement for this Ministry: GAPS Caring Group Budget 2015

#### Expenses

Hospitality & Outreach Coordinator	\$1600
Guest Facilitators	\$1600
Food Costs	\$1600
Publicity Outreach	\$500
Supplies, Resources	\$600
Office Supplies, maintenance	\$500
Rent/phone (in-kind)	\$800
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>\$7000</b>

#### Income

Friends Donations	\$3000
ABCUSA Matthew 25 Grant	\$4000
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>\$7000</b>

### 3) Use of Funds

Grant Request from the ABCUSA Matthew 25 Grant

Guest Facilitator	\$1600	
Food Costs	\$1600	
Publicity Outreach	\$300	
Supplies, Resources	\$500	Total Request - \$4,000

#### **Caring for each other in the Gaps:** *Living through Suffering and Loss in the Elder Community*

Beginning this fall GAPS Ministries will offer an eight-session support group for people ages 50+ dealing with caregiving (emotionally, spiritually, and/or physically) of family and friends with chronic illness, cancer, mental illness, or other debilitating conditions. (A second eight-session will start in the winter of 2016).

It will also be open to elders who are facing losses and readjustments due to aging: physical illness, financial loss, loss of independence, loss through death of spouses and friends. Many people in our GAPS programs are on fixed incomes or have financial limitations due to the need to work less because of caregiving or illness. Cape Cod has a large elder population since we are a retirement destination; often the caregivers themselves are older and at risk for their own health problems and burn-out.

This program will minister to the whole person through prayer and relaxation techniques, facilitated discussion, and by sharing a nutritious meal together. Healthsigns Center has a long history of providing pastoral care, spiritual guidance, and hospitality on Cape Cod for all denominations and faith backgrounds. While there are many opportunities in our area for other kinds of support groups there are very few that help the caregivers with a spiritual component and hospitality. We also outreach to area congregations to create a rich ecumenical/interfaith experience of caring.

*For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat...I was a stranger and you invited me in,  
I was sick and you looked after me. (Matthew 25)*