

## 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.

1. General Information:

Organization Name Families By Choice, Inc.  
Affiliation with ABCUSA Founders are both members of an ABCUSA church in Terre Haute, IN  
Address 164 Allendale Court, Terre Haute, Indiana 47802  
Phone 812-240-8087 Federal Tax ID# 35-2123693  
Contact person Dr. Muriel Ryan  
email mollysweet@hotmail.com

2. Please submit with your application a copy of:

- Your mission statement: "Families by Choice meets the basic needs of persons at a distance from their family of origin either geographically or emotionally."
- 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. **SEE ATTACHMENT**

3. Total cost of the project Minimum of 1500 plus per month for our women's and children project called Deborah's House.

4. Amount being requested from the ABCUSA Matthew 25 Grant \$2806

5. Your other funding source(s) Other grants, monthly donors and private contributions

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) Muriel Ryan PhD Date February 28, 2014

Printed Name/Title Muriel Ryan, Founder

**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 [beth.fogg@abc-usa.org](mailto:beth.fogg@abc-usa.org). Only electronic submissions will be accepted.



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.)

Families By Choice (FBC) serves the homeless and hungry in the Wabash Valley. Besides the 45,000 pounds of Panera Bread that we distribute to 16 different non-profit agencies in the area as well as the 60 boxes of food distributed to the neediest of the needy in one of three public housing locations serving the elderly and disabled\*, FBC has three shelters serving the homeless. Project Jonathan home serves the mentally challenged who have been neglected, abused or abandoned by their families of origin. Timothy's House serves men. Our oldest program, Deborah's House, serves mothers or custodial grandmothers with young children.

Deborah's House has served many moms and children over the last seven years. Last year we purchased from foreclosure an 810 square foot house next door the original shelter which has over 3200 square feet. This allowed us to serve an additional mother with children as we moved our small office next door. Since that expansion has taken place and noting our successes, the county Child Protection Services has begun placing moms and kids who would normally be separated due to a lack of shelter at Deborah's House. They see the additional caring persons as a benefit to the mom and a support for the children. Now after nearly a year of that partnership (for which the state pays no fees) we have discovered some things that we are very short of: parenting materials and study materials, an additional washer and dryer AND MORE HOT WATER. Essential we think of this as cleansing the body and soul.

\$500 would allow us to purchase parenting materials from both on line resources as well as from Christian Book Distributors.

\$1100 would provide an additional basic washer and dryer. \$225 would pay for the running of additional water and vent hook ups.

AND \$981 would purchase, install and provide warranty for a critical "appliance" which cares for children (from ages 0 to 16) and their moms/grandmas---a bigger, more efficient hot water heater!!

That totals \$2806

How does this work to battle poverty? Essentially we are battling generational poverty. Often our moms experienced lives of chaos as children themselves. They need new skills to encourage these children they are responsible for to achieve. They need to understand that clean bodies and clothes are part of making good choices to pay your bills and keep the electricity on. Creating a loving environment with mentors who hold them accountable to achieve growth goals empowers them to reach farther and higher than they ever expected to be able. Most important it sets a new pattern for the children. "Our family CAN do it!!" is a blest chorus to hear. With values like the Fruits of the Spirit on the walls, these adults and children learn that a life of abundance can be theirs.

\*Our goal in two more years is to deliver 130 boxes in ALL three of those locations serving the elderly and disabled.

To learn more about Families By Choice, go to [www.familiesbychoice.org](http://www.familiesbychoice.org)