

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 _____ Frist Baptist Church, Bicknell Indiana _____
Affiliation with ABCUSA _____ Local Church _____
Address _____ PO Box 274, _____
_____ Bicknell, IN 47512 _____
Phone _____ 812-735-4474 _____ Federal Tax ID# _____ 35-1585087 _____
Contact person _____ Seth Alexander _____ email _____ seth@fbcbicknell.org _____

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 _____ \$6000 _____

5. Amount being requested from the ABCUSA Matthew 25 Grant _____ \$5000 _____

6. Your other funding source(s) _____ Local Mission Board and Member 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) _____ Seth Alexander _____ Date _____ 2/27/14 _____

Printed Name/Title _____ Seth Alexander, Pastor _____

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. Only electronic submissions will be accepted.



Church Mission Statement:

We live to grow Christ's kingdom by passionately sharing His truth in love.

Program Mission Statement:

To show Christ's love to families while equipping them to wisely purchase and prepare healthy meals.

Proposed Budget for 2014 Joyfully Cooking:

Item	Budget
Cooking Demo Supplies	\$1500
Food kits for families	\$3000
Spices and other pantry Items	\$ 900
Child Care Provider	\$ 200
Paper goods and consumable supplies	\$ 300
Advertising and Miscellaneous	\$ 100

FBC Bicknell's mission statement reads: "We live to grow Christ's Kingdom by passionately sharing his truth in love." This has led the FBC Family's efforts to make an indelible mark on our community and has subsequently provided many opportunities to reach out to the working poor.

A huge part of this aforementioned demographic is single mothers raising multiple children on a shoestring budget. These women and their families need a special amount of encouragement and support in emotional, spiritual, and practical ways.

Harvard Business Review recently published an article. The title was "To Change the World, Invest in One Woman." The children in our community need better meals and more evenings around the table, especially the kids of single moms. A church member had a desire to minister to these moms by teaching them how to cook simple, healthy, and delicious meals for their families. This is how ***Joyfully Cooking*** was born.

Each month, several volunteers from FBC Bicknell and a class full of ladies gather in our church kitchen for a cooking demo. The volunteers lovingly teach a roomful of women how to prepare the month's chosen meal, finishing off with a tasty dessert! A key part of the program's success is the free childcare offered during the demo. Then the volunteers, the students, and their families sit down to share the meal together, building important relational bridges that plant seeds of salvation and redemption. All the ingredients needed for the menu plan are boxed up and sent home with each student. The students are then empowered to make the meal for their own families at a later date. The students receive a recipe card to place in a provided recipe box which they can display with dignity in their kitchens. The students attend several months of classes before they receive a certificate during the church hour celebrating their accomplishment. One of the Joyfully Cooking Graduates even participated in our church's annual chili cook-off...AND WON!

A single mom named Lisa had taken part in many of the church's outreach opportunities in the past. She joined the cooking class, made some new friends, started attending church services at FBC with her daughter, and made a commitment to follow Christ. Her baptism was a celebration for her *and* the volunteers involved with Joyfully Cooking!

Joyfully Cooking will start with a new class of ladies in March 2014 and the ministry is expanding to include a "field trip" of sorts to the grocery store where the volunteers will teach the students to compare pricing and creatively menu plan using the WIC and SNAP benefits they receive monthly. The class is promoted through FBC Bicknell's Facebook page, flyers around town, and word-of-mouth. Joyfully Cooking's volunteers see the struggles and victories of these students with new eyes and a great degree of compassion, which is a blessing to the whole church.

The grant would be incredibly helpful because it would aid in buying the supplies to send home with the students. The FBC volunteers would love to be able to build a small pantry of items often required for recipes for the ladies who attend the classes. It will be a blessing for their families and will set a great example for the next generation as these women teach their children to cook. Shauna Niequist wrote in her book Bread and Wine that "The heart of hospitality is about creating space for someone to feel seen and heard and loved. It's about declaring your table a safe zone, a place of warmth and nourishment." This is what Joyfully Cooking is providing to some of the women in our community, and the love of God is becoming real to them in the breaking of the bread.