

# 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 a direct relationship with American Baptist Churches USA to be eligible to apply, and only one application per church or Region will be considered per 12 month period. Grant funds may not be used to fund staff positions or for capital improvements to facilities. Grant awards will be sent to the ABC church or Region, checks will not be made payable to an individual or ministry.

1. *General Information*

Church or Region: Markey Community Baptist Church  
Region Affiliation with ABCUSA: ABC-Michigan  
Ministry or Group receiving these funds: Markey Food Project  
Mailing Address: 4736 Flint Road, Roscommon, MI 48653  
Phone: 989-821-5490 Federal Tax ID#: 38-22177030  
Contact person: Joyce Ann Zeneberg Email: <mailto:zeneberj@gmail.com>  
AND/OR David W. Rice, Lead Pastor Email: <mailto:drice@markeychurch.org>

2. *Please submit with your application a copy of: See attachments for the following*

- *Your mission statement.*
- *A financial statement FOR THIS MINISTRY.*

3. *Specifically, how do you plan to use the requested funds?*

The requested funds will be used to increase the number of weekly food shares we'll be able to provide to people in need within our community from three to ten or more.

4. *How will the funds assist individuals battling poverty and its effects?* Roscommon County has a very high poverty population. Both access to and resources for fresh, clean, organically grown, locally grown food is limited for people living in poverty in our county. The Markey Food Project is in a position to begin to address this by growing and distributing locally grown, organically grown food to people living in poverty within Roscommon County as we seek to connect people with God and each other through our “soil work”!

5. *Total cost of the project:*

The projected total cost of the Markey Food Project for the 2016 growing season is **\$15,000.00** without the support from the Matthew 25 Grant. If we are fully funded by the Matthew 25 Grant, the projected total cost is **\$20,000.00**.

6. *Amount being requested from the ABCUSA Matthew 25 Grant:* \$5000.00

7. *Your other funding source(s):*

• Markey Community Baptist Church -	\$1200.00
• Markey Food Project CSA Share members -	\$11,350.00
• Contributions from community toward CSA Share scholarships -	\$1450.00
• Farm Market/Roadside Stand Sales -	\$1000.00
<b>Total Other Funding Sources:</b>	<b>\$15,000.00</b>

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/photos within six months of receipt of the grant.

Application submitted by: Joyce Ann Zeneberg

Date: February 27, 2016

## 2. Mission Statement

### Markey Food Project - Vision/Mission

**Markey Food Project** is a ministry of Markey Church where our mission is to *connect people with God and with each other.*

As a ministry of Markey Church, the **Markey Food Project** exists to invite people to connect with God and each other as we . . .

1. provide opportunities for people to discover God and deepen relationship with him through engagement with soil (growing) and through building relationship with each other at the garden site and through the food distribution process,
2. work together to plant, tend, harvest and distribute healthy, organically grown, locally grown food with and for people in need within our larger community,
3. provide education in growing, harvesting, preparing, preserving and eating locally grown nutrition dense foods,
4. AND, as we continue to develop this project we will eventually be able to provide employment opportunities to people living below the poverty level in our community

## 2. Financial Statement for the Markey Food Project

### Markey Food Project Projected Expenses for 2016 Season:

Expense Category	Projected for 2016	Matthew 25 Grant	Total with Matthew 25 Grant Support
Seed and Starts, Soil Testing and Soil Amendment	\$1,750.00	\$2,000.00	\$3,750.00
Tools, Supplies, and educational supplies and materials	\$1,750.00	\$3,000.00	\$4,750.00
Lease of Property: Includes well, irrigation, electricity, porta john, maintenance of structures (hoop house, fences, etc.), machinery and equipment	\$5, 500.00		\$5, 500.00
Manager/Labor (Note: we are not yet in a position to consider paying for labor. Share members do all labor. This line item is here as a reference point that the work folks do on this project has a cost/value.)	\$6,000.00		\$6,000.00
Total Projected Expenses 2016 Season	\$15,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$20,000.00

### Markey Food Project Projected Income:

Income Category	Projected for 2016	Matthew 25 Grant	Total with Matthew 25 Grant Support
CSA Shares	\$11,350.00		\$11,350.00
Donations and Scholarships from Members and Friends of Markey Church (NOTE: Without the Grant, we will be able to fund just approximately 3 shares – same number at the 2015 season)	\$1,450.00	\$5,000.00	\$6,410.00
Markey Church General Fund	\$1,200.00		\$1,200.00
Farm Market Sales	\$1,000.00		\$1,040.00
Total Projected Income 2016 Season	\$15,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$20,000.00

### 3. Specifically, how do you plan to use the requested funds?

The breakdown of the requested funds will be used toward improving our ability to maximize vegetable growth by improving and amending the soil to accommodate the intensive planting necessary to increase the shares we are able to provide on the one acre plot we are leasing. As a minimum, we will create permanent raised beds in the 70'x30' hoop house. If funding permits, we will also begin the process of creating permanent raised beds within the 1-acre field. This will allow us to work smarter, allow for intensive planting, and will make for easier harvesting of our crops. It will also significantly increase our crop yield potential, thereby increasing the amount of food we are able to grow our one-acre allotment. This increase of food production will directly benefit our target audience, those currently living below, or just above, the poverty line.

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#### Seeds and starts, soil amendments

The majority of the \$2000.00 in this line item will go towards creating permanent raised beds and soil amendments needed per soil testing results.

**\$ 2,000.00**

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#### Equipment and supplies, educational materials,

To make our operation more efficient, the following tools will be helpful:

2 Broadforks (@\$200.00 each	\$400.00
Floating row cover, anti-insect netting, hoops	\$650.00
Indoor seeding equipment	\$600.00
Harvest baskets, scales and other equipment	\$300.00
Flame weeder	\$700.00
Harvest cart	\$350.00

**\$ 3,000.00**

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Total Amount Matthew 25 Grant will support
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**\$ 5,000.00**

Because we are in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the **Markey Food Project**, without the *Matthew 25 Grant*, we will be able to provide weekly shares of a variety of fresh, locally grown, organically grown vegetables to three (and up to five families) who are living in poverty within our community. With the *Matthew 25 Grant* fully funded, we will potentially be able to target **up to ten additional families**.

#### 4. How will the funds assist individuals battling poverty and its effects?

Roscommon County is one of the top counties in the State of Michigan in poverty for total population and also one of the top two counties in Michigan for childhood poverty. Access to locally available clean, fresh food is limited for a large portion of people within our county.

The **Markey Food Project**, a ministry of Markey Church, is focusing on developing a market garden concept in which locally grown food using organic processes will be made available to people of need within our community. People living in poverty are not as likely to have either the access to or resources to purchase fresh, organically grown local foods. For this reason, the **Markey Food Project** is in the position to begin to address this by growing and distributing locally grown, organically grown foods to people in need within Roscommon County, with a long-term goal of actually providing opportunities for employment to people. During 2015, our start up year, we were able to provide weekly shares to four families within our church community.

This ministry developed through discussion in an adult Sunday School Class over several seasons. In the summer of 2014, during a study of David L Nichols' book, *Learning to Love Your Neighbor*, our long-time discussions turned into action. Initial plans were to begin this project on church property. Yet, one of the couples in the class owns a farm with property adjacent to Markey Church property. They made the generous offer to us to use a one-acre plot that contains a 70'x30' hoop house, and is surrounded by an 8' deer fence, a necessity in rural northern Michigan. It was decided to operate the project like a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) to provide necessary funding for start-up. During this pilot year, we had 24 share memberships, which funded the pilot, and share members also provided over 2000 hours of labor. We were also able to donate four shares to individuals/families within our church community who are living at/below poverty level. In addition, individual share members gave portions of or all of their weekly share boxes to neighbors or friends. For additional information on the 2015 season, please refer to an article that appeared in the [\*Houghton Lake Resorter\*](#) featuring the start-up year of the **Markey Food Project**.

The 2016 season will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of this ministry and we're continuing to call it a pilot. During the initial season in 2015, we were backyard gardeners, all with our own diverse experiences in gardening, coming together to see what we could grow together. We have committed to being more intentional during the 2016 season to learning how to bring all of our diverse experiences together to develop a market garden, intended to feed many off an acre of land using the concepts in *The Market Gardener*, by Jean-Martin Fortier (New Society Publishers, 2014). It is our intent during the 2016 season, with the support of the *Matthew 25 Grant* to provide shares to a minimum of ten + families. The *Matthew 25 Grant* will be used to help fund the cost of these shares. (Cost of a share is computed at \$25.00 / week for a minimum of 20 weeks for a total cost of \$500 / share for a total of \$5,000.) In addition to receiving food shares weekly from mid-June through mid-October, the families will be invited and encouraged to join us in the planting, tending and harvesting of food weekly, participate in opportunities to learn how to utilize, prepare and store the variety of fresh foods that will be in the weekly share boxes. It is during these times when we work side by side that God steps in and provides opportunities for us to grow closer to Him and to each other.

Markey Food Project is certainly about food. Clean (i.e. chemically-free), organically grown, locally grown food. But, more importantly, it's about building relationships with each other and through this, growing in our relationship with God. We long to go where God is leading us, to renew and restore and reconcile all things in the world, in our state but particularly in Roscommon County.