

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: Stepping Stones Pre-K, First Baptist Church, MLT, WA

Affiliation with ABCUSA: Evergreen Association of ABC/USA

Address: 22800 56th Ave W
Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043

Phone: 425-778-3642 Federal Tax ID# 501-C/3 916035184

Contact person: Dennis Plourde email: dnplou@earthlink.net

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: \$15,000

5. Amount being requested from the ABCUSA Matthew 25 Grant: \$5,000

6. Your other funding source(s) Regular tuition; reduced tuition; donations from members, other churches, community; volunteers;

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) _____

Date: 8/25/14



Printed Name & Title: The Rev. Dennis N. Plourde

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.



Stepping Stones Pre-K - FBC/MLT - 22800 - 56th Ave. W., Mountlake Terrace - 425-778-3642

Research shows that the achievement gap between low and middle income children is huge - even greater than between white and black students. One of our goals is to be able to provide scholarships to students who live below the poverty level and whose parents are not able to pay for any pre-k programs in order to help in closing that gap in our community. **The Matthew 25 funds would allow us to provide five (5) scholarships for the coming school year to students who are in the greatest need of pre-k but whose parents do not have the resources available.** Research has shown that people are more committed to programs they must pay something for, therefore, we will ask the parents to pay a small amount - as they are able - towards the program - or they could volunteer in kind. We have had a number of calls from parents who have heard about us, but need financial assistance

Stepping Stones Pre-K is an extension of the outreach ministry of the First Baptist Church of Mountlake Terrace, WA, and the sister program of Wings To Reading (beginning its 7th year), which is an afternoon reading intervention program for disadvantaged children in second, third and fourth graders. Sadly, more and more of our Wings students are becoming homeless. Childhood homelessness is rising throughout our district and many principals and kindergarten teachers have shared how prevalent this problem is for enrolling kindergarten students. They stated that they wished there was a Pre-K program for these needy kids similar to our Wings To Reading program format - and this is how Stepping Stones Pre-K was born.

Our class size is small and students are provided high-quality individualized instruction. The grant would help provide the tuition and we would offer parenting classes, job skills classes and meals for the families. We desire to provide assistance and skills training so that families can access the resources to begin to lift themselves up out of poverty. Our reading program has been nicknamed the "Reading and Feeding Program" and the Pre-K program will soon discover its own nickname.

Our Director, Mrs. Diane Plourde, M.Ed., works closely with the school district to prepare the pre-k students to be ready for kindergarten. Stepping Stones Pre-K has been a member of the Edmonds School District Early Learning Collaborative since the Fall of 2012 and staff takes part in their professional development sessions for Pre-K-3 teachers. We are also on the District listing of recognized and qualified Pre-Schools in our area.

Because the congregation of FBC/MLT views this as part of our outreach ministry, the congregation donates the space and covers all the utility costs, janitor, etc. Tuition is set well below some schools in the area and runs slightly below most of the others. Even this is more than those who need it most can afford.

Our congregation is elderly and small, however, they are doing and providing more than many larger and younger congregations. They just don't have any more resources to draw from. The father of one of our former students is looking into setting up some kind of scholarship fund so that we are able to provide quality educational experiences for those who need it most.

Although the grant is not dispersed until October 15, the knowledge that the grant is coming would enable us to keep our registration open and allow students in need to attend in anticipation of the upcoming funds.



Wings To Reading and *Stepping Stones Pre-K*

Director, Diane Plourde, M.Ed.

FBC/MLT

22800 - 56th Ave. West

Mountlake Terrace, Washington 98043

Telephone: 425-778-3642 www.WingsToReading.org e-mail: WingsToReading@earthlink.net (OR) SteppingStonesPreK@earthlink.net



Stepping Stones Pre-K Proposed Budget School Year 2014-15

Item	Regular Income	Grant	Expense	Balance
Tuition	\$20,000	\$5,000		
Donations	\$5,000			
FBC/MLT (In-Kind)	\$1,000			
Volunteer Time (In-Kind) (2 staff)	\$10,000			
Director Salary (Washington Certificated Teacher)			\$12,000	
Teacher Aide			\$6,800	
Volunteer Time (In Kind)			\$10,000	
Staff/Volunteer Expenses			\$500	
Program Expenses			\$1,500	
Tuition Subsidy			\$5,000	
Food & Nutrition			\$2,800	
Parent Training/Classes			\$1,200	
Facility Use FBC/MLT			\$1,200	
Column Totals	\$36,000	\$5,000	\$41,000	
Total Budget				\$41,000



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Vision Statement

First Baptist Church, Mountlake Terrace, WA

Being a congregation of growing believers, God calls us, through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, to be a continuing Christian influence of grace, peace and joy, to offer God's salvation, healing and hope to our community.

Calls to Action

To be growing believers we are called to:

- » enrich our faith in Jesus Christ through continued prayer, worship and Biblical Study
 - » offer all that we are and have to God
 - » call and nurture congregational leaders for service

To be a continuing influence of grace, peace and joy we are called to:

- » practice love, forgiveness and hospitality that affirms our diversity
 - » nurture and minister to each other
- » be a joyful people grateful for all of God's blessings

To offer God's salvation, healing and hope to our community we are called to:

- » provide a worship experience, consisting of prayer, music and spoken word, that is Biblically based, spiritually welcoming, comforting and inspiring
 - » to be an inviting people, accepting diversity
- » seek specific ways to provide ministries to our community by offering hospitality, fellowship, study and support



Wings To Reading and Stepping Stones Pre-K



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Stepping Stones Pre-K Mission Statement & Vision

Mission Statement (Our Goal)

To provide a place where children are loved, nurtured, empowered and celebrated for who they are and who they will become as they grow into responsible partners in community life.

To provide a rich literacy rich curriculum in a caring, loving, joyful environment where children are given opportunities to explore, question, negotiate and learn through play, activities and modeled lessons.

To be a place where children are able to develop positive relationships with both children and adults.

To work in partnership with families and community to enhance the abilities and skills of the whole child - social, physical, intellectual, communication, and emotional development.

To provide parenting/job skills training so that families can access the resources to lift themselves up out of poverty.

Vision (How we achieve our Goal)

We provide pre-school children with learning opportunities to develop a desire for learning through experiences that enhance self-esteem, cultivate individual strengths, help them make choices, and explore diversity.

We provide an age appropriate environment that is safe and caring where children can be nurtured in a loving environment as active participants in co-operative, play-based experiences.

Our curriculum is aligned with the Edmonds School District Early Learning program for Pre-K to Grade 3 - and staff is supported through Edmonds School District-led Professional Development teachers.

We partner with parents and community in the social, emotional, physical, and cognitive development of each student through open and honest communication, as well as, sharing of diverse points of view and sharing real life experiences.

To provide family meals and family learning events



Literacy is modeled on David Matteson Writing program which allows teachers to identify stages of literacy development for each student and how to proceed to each next step.

Math is aligned with Common Core Guidelines and allows for cross-curricular connections and fun with a huge variety of learning tools and individualized learning stages. Includes organizing information, comparing, identifying relationships, and develops logical thinking skills.

Science - Hands on, experience based - gardening, cooking, experimenting - basic concepts, life cycles, seasons, weather, senses, growth, magnets, creepy crawlies, bubble-ology,

Physically - Both fine motor and large motor skills activities on a daily basis.

Socially & Emotionally - Love of learning, respect, cooperation, sharing, appropriate behaviors, self awareness, playing and working cooperatively with others.

Art - Open ended creative art experiences in a variety of mediums.

Music & Dance - Group and individual experiences with instruments, voice and listening to build deeper awareness of diversity music and dance.

Drama - Opportunities for imaginative play and experiences using variety of props.



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