

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 First Baptist Church Diaper Depot
Affiliation with ABCUSA ABC - Church sponsored ministry
Address 3009 Avenue I
Scottsbluff NE 69361
Phone 308-635-2548 / 308-631-5618 Federal Tax ID# 470424781
Contact person Chris Smith email bulldogs4jesus@embargoemail.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 Budget of \$500/monthly

5. Amount being requested from the ABCUSA Matthew 25 Grant \$5000.00

6. Your other funding source(s) please see attached

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) Christopher M. Smith Date 2/25/14

Printed Name/Title Christopher M. Smith - Deacon Chair - Youth Director -
Diaper Depot Committee Member

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.



Diaper Depot Mission Statement

To provide a solution to a commonly overlooked need of both negatively financially impacted families of young children and single parents of young children who share the same difficulties by supplying emergency/short term supplies of diapers and other support where there may be a need.

A further purpose is to build relationships with individuals to build trust and openness to the ultimate end of sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Diaper Depot Financial Information

<u>Date</u>	<u># of bags of diapers given+</u>	<u>Amount spent</u>
March 2013	90	\$425.64
April 2013	214	\$269.34
May 2013	159	\$698.15
June 2013	146	\$375.63
July 2013	204	\$543.87
August 2013	212	\$712.11
September 2013*	148	\$547.98
October 2013	110	\$39.54**
November 2013	87#	\$356.25
December 2013	105	\$236.06
January 2014	125	\$381.94
February 2014	52	\$399.00

+Number of diapers vary in each bag depending on size—see plan to use requested funds for more information

*New policies to curb any abuse of the ministry were implemented

**Large donation of diapers from community group came in which cut our costs for this month

#Large snowstorm hit this day decreasing the number of folks who came to the distribution day

Income/other funding sources from March 2013 through February 2014

Matthew 25 Grant-\$3000

United Way Grant-\$1500

Snow Redfern Foundation Grant-\$2000

Donations individuals and other church bodies-app\$1400

Our projected budget for March 2014-February 2015 is to spend no more than \$500/month on diapers. With some of the changes we implemented our costs have been reduced but we do realize that that can always change. We will still spend no more than \$500/month to keep the ministry as efficient and stable as possible while being good stewards of what God is

providing. We will continue to apply for other grants similar to the ones we applied for last year but never know how those will turn out. Therefore, we are applying for \$5000 from the Matthew 25 grant to give us a peace of mind as we move forward knowing that funds will be readily available when purchases need to be made.

3.

The requested funds will go towards the sole purpose of providing diapers for the ministry. We get a substantial amount of food, clothing, household items, etc. donated for this outreach, but the diapers are what we provide with the funds and all funds will go directly towards their cost.

The funds we raise for diapers specifically assist and provide needs for individuals and families in poverty. Due to the large amount of poverty, teen pregnancy and other burdensome social issues in our community, the Diaper Depot is providing needs for our neighbors in a way that no one else is. We do our best to assist in a tangible and conservative way and be good stewards of the funds God has provided us.

We did make some changes to the ministry to make better use of our resources and decrease the possibility of folks misusing the system God provided for us. We were giving out 20-24 individual diapers per bag in sizes 1-6 and a full package for newborns. We changed that to 25 individual diapers for newborns, 20 individual diapers for sizes 1-4, 15 individual diapers for size 5 and 10 individual diapers for size 6. This has allowed us to extend the supply of diapers we have on hand. The conservative amount of diapers is simply to get parents by until the next payday without forcing them to totally rely on us. We have also curtailed the emergency supplies unless deemed totally necessary by our volunteers or referred by another church or agency. This has eliminated the usage by folks who were relying on us to supply diapers to them on a "too" regular basis. As far as the individual diapers per bag, the reason for this is to eliminate anyone from taking full bags to the store and attempting to exchange them for money. We have also begun to ask folks a few more questions of folks as they sign in just to make sure things are not being abused. We still trust and we don't do any background checks or such, but we do ask folks to be upright and honest with us. We have begun implementing a list of folks to be on guard for, those who have tended to use the system a bit and encouraged these people to come only on distribution days. All of this falls into our goal of EMPOWERING people and not ENABLING them and seems to be successful and appreciated. We still feel that of the church was doing what God has called us to do, the government would not have their hands in everything. On this note, we do not take government funds or grants, only funds from Christ-Centered or community minded groups or individuals.

Diapers are handed out on distribution days at the church (the fourth Saturday of each month from 9-11am) with emergency supplies available if deemed necessary by our volunteers or referring agencies or churches. We have formed partnerships with many local organizations, agencies and churches to help us find and fulfill the needs for distribution.

Helping keep children clean and healthy is our goal! Jesus said to love the little children and never turn them away and we intend to follow this command! We are also building relationships and openness so that the door may be opened in which we can share the Gospel of Jesus Christ and bring folks into a relationship with Him and we are seeing that happening on a regular basis. We want to see the Kingdom of God grow through this ministry!

On a side note, this ministry came about as a result of our MCLE training with Glynis LaBarre from the ABC Home Mission Society with whom we recently received some more updated training. It has continued to grow and open even more doors for ministry and we truly appreciate the support we have received from ABC/USA and the inspiration we were given to help us find needs that need to be met and do it in Jesus' Name! We have also been given the opportunity to share about the Diaper Depot at our ABC/Nebraska Spring Mission Festival at the end of March in Kearney, NE. Through the MCLE training and the support we have received from ABC/USA through the initial grant and last years' Matthew 25 grant, this ministry, which is so simple, is assisting families who may have to choose between clean diapers for their little ones and putting food on the table. By sharing in this way, needs are being met and poverty and its effects are being dealt with. Praise Jesus!