

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. Grant awards will be sent to the ABC church or organization, checks will not be made payable to an individual or ministry.

I. General Information:

Organization Name First Baptist Church Cranford/Elizabeth
Affiliation with ABC USA (Check made payable to) First Baptist Church
Cranford/Elizabeth Mailing Address 402 Union Ave. Elizabeth NJ 07208

Phone _____ 908-352-0519 Federal Tax ID# _____ 222417805000

Contact person Rev. Diana Brown email: firstbaptistchurchce@verizon .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 ~~\$ 13000.00~~ -----
5. Amount being requested from the ABC USA Matthew 25 Grant... ~~\$5000~~ -----
6. Your other funding source(s) United Way and Church Budget

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} Rev. Dr. Diana L. Brown

Date 8/27/2015

Printed Name/Title Rev. Dr. Diana L. Brown

Please note:

Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Recipients agree to share their stories via the ABC USA 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 _____

_____. Only electronic submissions will be accepted.

How We Plan to Use the Funds from the Matthew 25 Grant

Shelter Our Sisters Hospitality House
First Baptist Church of Cranford/Elizabeth

Much of the grant money will go toward the upkeep of the Hospitality House. Although in other grant proposals upkeep would fall under the category of "infrastructure," the care of the house is essential, for it is a true *home* for our formerly homeless sisters and their children. The House serves as a refuge, a place of healing, an edifice of protection, and a residence of comfort. Therefore, repairing and sustaining the house is not simply a matter of maintenance, it is a matter of *ministry*. We want to welcome our sisters in the manner that Mary and Martha welcomed Jesus into their home. We could not extend an authentic welcome to our sisters and place them in a building that was badly in need of repair. What is more, maintaining a residence requires that it be properly insured. Therefore, funds will be set aside for insurance.

A significant portion of the funds will go toward utilities: electricity, gas, and water. As a matter of good stewardship, we switched from oil usage to gas last year, which has lowered energy costs, particularly in the winter. The importance of our shouldering these costs is that *it allows our sisters to save as much money as possible for future housing*. Paying monthly utilities would significantly reduce their ability to set aside a portion of their earnings.

The use of the internet is another expense. In today's economy, it is critical that residents have access to the internet for free online courses, job and apartment searches, and networking. We provide this service so that our sisters are not reliant solely on the public library for electronic access. Likewise, they do not have to assume these fees themselves.

We consider workshops as a vital use of grant money. The workshops enable us to share the kinds of skills, strategies, and experiences--spiritual, social, and financial--that will help our sisters to thrive. Our social workers and financial coach are volunteers. Therefore, we are not using grant money for the financial benefit of church members. The budgeted money would cover the cost of appropriate seminars or guest speakers, specialized therapists, registration costs at outside workshops, partial tuition at a local community college, fees for YWCA seminars, etc. Funds would also be used to meet the needs of children residing in the House.

We believe that by increasing self-esteem and self-confidence in the lives of our sisters, and by helping them to attain marketable job skills, resume-writing and job interviewing skills, along with financial management savvy, that they will demonstrate stronger parenting skills, and secure better paying jobs. All of these steps will facilitate their access to affordable housing.

As in all ministries, unforeseen needs may arise that demand financial support. These miscellaneous expenses may include...

Mission Statement and Ministry Description

Shelter Our Sister Hospitality House
First Baptist of Cranford/Elizabeth, New Jersey

Mission Statement

The mission of the Shelter Our Sister Hospitality House (SOS) of the First Baptist Church of Cranford/Elizabeth, New Jersey is to offer working-poor, homeless women, including mothers with young children, a path to obtain housing of their own. It does so by providing them with transitional housing and holistic support during a set time frame. SOS endeavors to help low-wage earning women move from homelessness to housing by providing a residential Hospitality House that offers security and stability, mandating a savings plan that enables participants to set aside half of their income, and equipping participants with the resources and skills needed to sustain economic independence and retain housing.

Ministry Description

SOS is designed to encourage transformation in the lives of employed homeless women by offering them radical hope that their lives can be changed. The program provides rent-free housing and no-cost utilities for a period of up to twenty-four months to working-poor homeless mothers, who, in light of their working status, are poised to move from dependency to financial self-sufficiency. The intention of the time frame is to give families enough time to heal from the wounds that often result from homelessness, and to face up to the interrelated issues that led to financial instability. The four bedroom Hospitality House is designed to facilitate life-in-community. The House's structured, yet flexible, environment entails monthly house meetings, household responsibilities, and various workshops that offer residents the spiritual, emotional, and educational support that can enable them to flourish. Three critical components of the SOS program are Financial Literacy Training, Life Skills Training, and Pastoral Care.

SOS participants are required to save 50% of their income, which is to be used to obtain permanent housing at the completion of the program. To this end, we offer a financial coach to assist families with their particular issues. Our life skills training offers families the practical skills to navigate daily life with limited resources. It enables our sisters to explore various avenues that can improve their earning potential and financial viability, such as community college programs and vocational and advanced technological education. By equipping women with strategies for the workplace and marketplace, the program hopes to engender practical wisdom that will enable women to thrive in challenging situations. The Pastoral Care dimension of the program is indispensable. It offers the gift of friendship and nurture to our sisters as we journey with them on the road to independence. We aim to help them cultivate practices of self-awareness and self-care so they can relate to themselves, their children, and others in life-giving ways. Our pastoral care team consists of two social workers, one of whom is responsible for holding monthly house meetings in which relational and routine matters are discussed. Both social workers interview candidates for admission to the program.

Outcomes

Our ministry has been a success. The church assisted the mother of one of our families in finding additional part-time work, and our counselor helped the son find employment. Both remain gainfully employed. One of our families, who came to this country as refugees, moved out in 2014--and moved into their own apartment, which is close to the church. Needless to say, they are pleased with their new housing.

Financial Statement
Shelter My Sister Hospitality House
First Baptist of Cranford/Elizabeth, New Jersey

Budget for September 2015 - September 2016

Total Budget - \$13,000.00

Projected Annual Expenses for September 2015 – September 2016

Electricity	\$1900.00
Gas	\$2300.00
Water	\$2000.00
Internet/Cable	\$1600.00
Life Skills/Financial	
Literacy Session	\$1800.00
Insurance	\$1350.00
Maintenance/Repairs	\$2050.00

Total Projected Expenses \$13000.00