

## 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 of Omaha (FBCO)

Affiliation with ABCUSA FBCO is an American Baptist Church

Address 421 Park Avenue, Omaha, Nebraska 68131

Phone (402)345-5009 Federal Tax ID# 47-0402356

Contact person Jeri Shelor email jshelor1@cox.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 \$6,300

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

6. Your other funding source(s) FBCO and Local Businesses

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) Jeri Shelor Date 08/31/14

Printed Name/Title Jeri Shelor/Team Leader, Stewardship and Finance

**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](mailto:beth.fogg@abc-usa.org). Only electronic submissions will be accepted.



# **First Baptist Church of Omaha**

## **Matthew 25 Grant Proposal**

### **Living the Gospel Project**

First Baptist Church of Omaha (FBCO) was established in 1858 and has been located at 421 Park Avenue in Omaha, Nebraska since 1904. We are an inner city church surrounded by a wealth of opportunities – opportunities to serve the hungry, homeless, poor, and spiritually deprived. FBCO is truly blessed to be a part of God's Ministry in this neighborhood. The Church has stood strong amidst declining economies, migration of wealth to the west, and the challenges of an inner city church to remain a beacon of light to the neighborhood and to the city of Omaha. Being an inner city church has its financial challenges and our income rarely covers our monthly expenses; however, God has been faithful to meet our needs and we strongly believe God continues to have a mission and a purpose for the congregation of FBCO. We have a very vibrant and diverse congregation ethnically, educationally, financially, and generationally which equips us with a better insight as to how to serve the neighborhood in an effective and caring manner. The most important goal of FBCO is to spread the gospel which is accomplished in several different ways but most importantly through sharing God's Word and living the gospel. We feel this is exemplified in our new Vision Portfolio which is provided in Attachment A.

FBCO would like to use the grant money to host a multicultural Community Feast for 300 guests on December 14. For people living in poverty, alone, homeless, unemployed, or hungry, the holidays often become a time of loneliness, sadness, and desperation rather than a time of celebration, especially between Thanksgiving and Christmas. For many families who are from other countries, the holidays can be extremely lonely with great distances separating them from loved ones. Last year we hosted our first Community Feast for people from our neighborhood who attend our Community Meal on Saturdays. Our congregation embraced the celebration from senior members who helped serve food down to our youngest children who helped make over 275 gift bags. Many of our guests said the Community Feast provided a ray of hope at a difficult time and gave them a sense of self worth – somebody actually cared about them. This year we would like to extend invitations to our neighbors who attend our Community Meal on Saturdays, individuals who will be attending our new Hispanic Outreach Ministry activities, and the congregation of the American Karen Baptist Church<sup>1</sup> that worships at FBCO. The meal would be catered in and served by the congregation of FBCO. We want to show our guests they are treasured human beings, loved dearly by God and created in his image. We also want to celebrate with them the good news that God brings all of us together regardless of wealth, education, or race. We would eat, visit, and enjoy the special day God has provided. The meal would be served at two different times to accommodate 300 guests. A Christmas movie would be playing in the sanctuary during the second meal. After the second meal, everyone would gather together in the sanctuary to sing Christmas carols and listen to special music presentations. We would provide a small gift to our guests which would include a gift card to a local restaurant, an invitation to the free Community Meal, a list of food pantries in the area, and a list of upcoming FBCO activities. The information would be provided in English, Karen, and Spanish. Our guests would leave with one additional meal and a reminder to join us for the Community Meal on Saturdays to provide ongoing food resources. We want people to know FBCO is a place where God reigns and His people are living the gospel. We believe this is what our mission is all about – to bring people together from all walks of life and nationalities to share the Word of God and show His love.

We would also like to use the grant money to enhance two of the Community Meals on Saturdays. The program is hosted by FBCO and administered by a group of churches (including FBCO) who have joined together for a very important mission – to show the love of Jesus by serving a free meal on Saturdays to people in the surrounding neighborhood who are unemployed, struggling to make ends meet, or needing somebody to talk to. On a typical Saturday, 100 to 150 guests are welcomed into Fellowship Hall at FBCO to eat a meal and talk. Each church typically serves four meals a year. Most of the churches can only afford basic meals with entrees such as pizza, goulash, and hot sandwiches. When FBCO was serving a meal in July, a gentleman stepped up to the window and said "I would like some prime rib please" and then added, "I'm teasing". His comment made me think how awesome it would be to serve two really special meals. FBCO serves the meal before Thanksgiving so we would like to serve a special meal with turkey and then another one in 2015. We believe the number of guests attending the Community Meals will increase with the addition of our Hispanic Outreach Ministry and better promotion within FBCO and the American Karen Baptist Church. Please see Attachment B for the project budget.

We believe the Living the Gospel Project would be a blessing for everyone involved. Thank you for considering our grant proposal. We appreciate this opportunity.

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<sup>1</sup> Our Karen Brothers and Sisters are refugees who have relocated to our area due to severe persecution in their native Myanmar.

**First Baptist Church of Omaha  
Matthew 25 Grant Proposal  
Living the Gospel Project  
Attachment A  
Vision Portfolio**

A Vision Summit was held on 03/16/13 which consisted of the Senior Pastor, Clerk, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Moderator, Vice Moderator, and Team Leaders. During the Vision Summit, it was decided a committee would be formed to review and update our Vision Portfolio. A committee was formed and in 2014, a new Vision Portfolio was implemented which includes the following mission statement, vision, slogan, image, and logo.

**Mission**

"We exist to equip people to live out the gospel in everyday life, loving God, loving all people, in midtown Omaha and beyond."

**Vision**

"Living the Gospel in Midtown and Beyond"

**Slogan**

"Living the Gospel"

**Image**



**Logo**



**First Baptist Church of Omaha  
Matthew 25 Grant Proposal  
Living the Gospel Project  
Attachment B  
Projected Budget**

<b>Items Provided By Matthew 25 Grant</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Community Feast	
Meals (300)	\$3,600
Coffee, creamer, sugar, punch, and ice	\$95
Plates, bowls, cups, silverware, and napkins	\$215
Gift cards to local restaurants (100) <sup>1</sup>	\$500
Community Meals (2)	\$350
Drink dispensers (2)	\$80
Promotion – banner, sign, and flyers <sup>2</sup>	\$160
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>
<b>Items Provided By Others</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Gift cards to local restaurants (200) - FBCO/Local Businesses	\$1,000
Community Meals (2) – FBCO <sup>3</sup>	\$300
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,300</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$6,300</b>

<sup>1</sup> We would provide a small gift to our guests at the Community Feast which would consist of a gift card to a local restaurant, an invitation to the free Community Meal on Saturdays, a list of food pantries in the area, and a list of upcoming FBCO activities. All of the information would be provided in English, Karen, and Spanish.

<sup>2</sup> We would like to place a Community Feast banner in the FBCO lawn for the neighborhood foot traffic to see as they walk by. We would also like to have a sign to welcome our guests to the Community Meal. Flyers would be used as invitations to invite guests to the Community Feast.

<sup>3</sup> It's difficult to calculate the cost of the Community Meals. We start looking at the ads a few weeks before the meal to take advantage of the sales and plan our menu around the sales. FBCO would cover the difference for anything over \$175 per meal.