

## 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 – Hospitality House of First Baptist Church of Cranford/Elizabeth, NJ

Affiliation with ABCUSA – Member Church of ABCNJ in good standing

Address – First Baptist Church

402 Union Ave., Elizabeth, NJ 07208

Phone – 908-352-0519; Fax – 908-352-1673

Federal Tax ID# - EO-222-417-805 /000

Contact person – Rev. Diana L. Brown, Pastor

email – [firstbaptistchurchce@verizon.net](mailto:firstbaptistchurchce@verizon.net)  
[dlb7k@cs.com](mailto:dlb7k@cs.com) – Pastor's email

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 - \$13,000

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

6. Your other funding source(s) – We will apply for a grant through ABCNJ, and we will also seek to be funded through the AGL Resources Private Foundation, Inc., a foundation that is affiliated with our local utility company.

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) Diana L. Brown Date August 30, 2013

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

**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.

## **Mission Statement and Ministry Description**

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

### **Mission Statement**

The mission of the Shelter My Sister Hospitality House (SMS) 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, by providing them with transitional housing and holistic support during a set time frame. SMS 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.

### **Program Description**

SMS is designed to encourage transformation in the lives of employed homeless women, first and foremost, by offering them radical hope that their lives can be changed. The program provides rent-free housing 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 mothers and children enough time and space to heal from the wounds that often result from events that lead to 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, social, educational support that can enable them to flourish. Three critical components of the SMS program are Financial Literacy Training, Life Skills Training, and Pastoral Care.

#### *Financial Literacy Training*

SMS participants are required to save 50% of their income. The money that is saved is to be used to obtain permanent housing at the completion of the program. We have formed a partnership with PNC bank that provides special accounts to help participants achieve their goals, and that offers programs to encourage saving for children, ages 5 to 17. To assist Hospitality House residents in reaching their savings goal, SMS, in partnership with the Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless, will offer ongoing mandatory workshops that cultivate financial wisdom by teaching: budgeting, spending, and money management. We will offer the workshops as a six-week two-hour series of classes when residents first move into the house; thereafter, we will have a financial coach work with families according to their particular needs.

### *Life Skills Training*

This aspect of the program helps participants apply the financial principles they have learned in the workshops to the economics of everyday life. Its objective is twofold: to help participants plan for new economic opportunities and a more promising financial future, while offering them the practical skills to navigate daily life with limited resources. One means of encouraging the women in SMS to dream—and to help them realize their dreams—is to explore various avenues that can improve their earning potential and financial viability, such as community college programs, vocational and advanced technological education, and entrepreneurship. While helping women plan for the future, the Life Skills component offers them do-it-yourself skills and practical strategies for managing their limited resources, such as couponing and comparative shopping. By equipping women with strategies for the workplace and marketplace, the program hopes to foster in SMS participants practical wisdom and sensibilities that will enable them to thrive in challenging situations. Like the Financial Literacy Training segment, workshops will be offered to participants throughout their time in SMS.

### *Pastoral Care*

Although the workshops are essential features of SMS, the Pastoral Care dimension of the program is indispensable. The goal of offering shelter to women in transition is not merely to provide “a roof over their heads,” but to provide a *home* where women are treated with respect and reverence until such time as they can make a home of their own. Therefore, offering the gift of friendship to women and nurturing these relationships as we journey with them on the road to independence is at the heart of our vision. We seek to honor the journeys and dreams of the residents of the house by partnering with them in ways that empower them to name and address their own needs. Therefore, we aim to help women cultivate practices of self-awareness and self-care so they can relate to themselves, their children, and others in life-giving ways. The Hospitality House staff that is tasked with caring for the residents of SMS 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 are members of the committee that interview candidates for the house. The financial coach and an administrative support person are also part of the Hospitality House team. The structure of the SMS program can also accommodate a volunteer live-in director with a social work or related background who would coordinate the workshops, collaborate with other organizations, and help build relationships among residents of the house. Other forms of care for the women and children of SMS are provided through our partner organization, the Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless. The Coalition makes available health and job readiness programs, counseling and therapy, and after school and summer camp programs for children.

**Proposed Use of Funds Statement**  
Shelter My Sister Hospitality House  
First Baptist of Cranford/Elizabeth, New Jersey

We intend to use the grant money to cover the expenses associated with the Hospitality House, such as utilities, insurance, and maintenance. In addition, we have set aside \$1,000 to cover the cost of the workshops. Since housing is the primary need we address, and the home we provide is rent-free, we view major housing expenses not simply as “upkeep of infrastructure,” but as ministry-related costs. While buildings and their associated costs may be incidental to many ministries, given the nature of the Hospitality House, all of its associated costs relate directly with our work in helping women and their families escape poverty.

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

Budget for September 2013 - September 2014

**Total Budget - \$13,000.00**

Projected Annual Expenses for September 2013 – September 2014

Electricity	\$1740.00
Gas	\$2500.00
Water	\$1045.00
Internet/Cable	\$1600.00
Workshops	\$1000.00
Insurance	\$1350.00
Maintenance/Repairs	\$2500.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$ 800.00
<b>Total Projected Expenses</b>	<b><u>\$12,535.00</u></b>