

## ABCUSA MATTHEW 25 GRANT APPLICATION 2014

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." The donor's primary concern is to help ameliorate poverty. ABCUSA will distribute grants of up to \$5,000 semi-annually as long as the generosity of this donor continues. A panel will select recipients 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.

1. General Information:

Organization Name: Adopt-A Block of Aroostook

Affiliation with ABCUSA: Military Street Baptist Church

Address: 307 Military Street, Houlton, ME 0473

Phone: (207) 532-2783 ext. 103 Federal Tax ID# 27-3532809

Contact person: Tammy Goetsch, Program Director email: tammyg@houltonmsbc.org

2. Please submit with your application a copy of:

- Your mission statement
- Your most recent annual report or audited financial statement

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 : \$8,457.27 (Boys Camp=\$4,512.29 and Choices Afterschool= \$3,944.98)

5. Amount being requested from the ABCUSA Matthew 25 Grant \$4,364.98

6. Your other funding source(s) Military Street Baptist Church.

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) Tammy Goetsch

Date: 2-13-14

Printed Name/Title; Tammy Goetsch, Program Director, AABA

**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 to:  
Mission Resource Development  
American Baptist Churches USA  
P.O. Box 851  
Valley Forge, PA 19482-0851  
Or emailed to: [Beth.Fogg@abc-usa.org](mailto:Beth.Fogg@abc-usa.org)



## ***Adopt-A-Block of Aroostook Mission Statement***

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The purpose and mission of Adopt-A-Block of Aroostook (AABA) is to impact our communities by bringing hope and love one block at a time, by assisting with food, clothing needs, life-skills education and “Project Prevention: Keeping Families Together.” It’s about giving a “hand-up” not a “hand-out.”

## ***Adopt-A-Block of Aroostook Background:***

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Adopt-A-Block of Aroostook (AABA) is helping to make a difference, helping to break the cycle of poverty in our community. AABA is one of the many vibrant ministries of Military Street Baptist Church in Houlton. The program has been growing rapidly as we meet the physical, emotional, and social needs of those in our community. In Year 1, we served the needs of 45 families on one block in Houlton. Our neighborhood visits included such actions as delivering fresh, homemade cookies; distributing food and household staples; and providing friendly well-being checks. Shortly thereafter, we took on the challenge of adopting a high-crime area inhabited by low-income families. Within six months, the police informed us that crime had dropped in that area by 90%. In Year 2, we received our 501(c) (3) status and served 80 families. In Year 3, at the request of the town manager, we again expanded to adopt additional high-risk blocks, for a total of 115 families. That year, AABA received a community service award from the Houlton Police Department. In Year 4, we adopted a trailer park and are seeing massive change in that area. Now, in Year 5 we continue to serve over 300 people on a monthly basis. In addition to monthly community FREE breakfasts and clothing giveaways, we offer afterschool programming, summer camp; parenting classes, Cooking Matters classes and individualized follow up of our adopted residents. Relationships have been built over time and we are seeing individuals come to church, accepting Christ and being baptized. Families are participating in AABA as volunteers and lives are being changed.

## **MATTHEW 25 GRANT NARRATIVE-ADOPT A BLOCK OF AROOSTOOK 2014**

Aroostook County, the Crown of Maine, is Maine's northernmost county, and remains one of its most rural, isolated, and disadvantaged regions. Although the rugged beauty of the landscape is picturesque, its people are marginalized and despairing. Our community has a 19% poverty rate, and we see its effects every day. That grinding poverty, functional illiteracy, rampant substance abuse, and day-to-day struggle are all taking their toll.

With the funds from ABCUSA Matthew 25 grant, we plan to continue to target two specific projects of Adopt-A-Block of Aroostook (AABA): the "It's All About Choices" after-school program and "Just 4 Boys" summer camp.

**"Choices":** AABA responded to a need in the community when we learned that the local schools would be releasing their students an hour earlier every Tuesday to allow for Professional Learning Groups for teachers. This early release presented a hardship for many families in our community. Our community's families struggle with transportation and childcare, anyway, and this additional complication presented a problem. We saw and met that need by partnering with the local schools to bus students grades 1-8 to our church for an afterschool program.

We are encouraged with the results that we saw in the first year; in fact, our numbers have tripled from last year. From the start of this school year, the word was out that "Choices" provides reliable after-school programming for children. The children have been pouring off the school buses and MSBC van since September. [We now regularly serve between 50 and 65 children each week, with half of them in grades one and two.] Because of the rapport built over time and with regular contact with low-income families on our blocks, they now trust us to provide safe, structured, and nurturing educational activities for their children. Not only do they send their own children, they have spread the word to friends and neighbors, and they are sending *their* children. Their children are inviting their classmates. The children continue to respond well to the varied character development activities, the individualized attention, and the safe haven. The children on our waiting list are invariably excited about being able to join "Choices," and parents report that they talk of little else during the week.

Since we are serving triple the number of students we served last year, the funds requested must be used for curriculum, educational materials and supplies, healthy snacks, field trips, fuel and staffing. We will use these funds to provide activities that build character, promote trust, and build and model healthy relationships with volunteers and staff. In order to break generational cycles of poverty the church must actively provide everything that Matthew 25 encompasses. Our program focuses on that. If we can reach children at an early age, we are hopeful that the cycles of poverty can be broken in their lifetime.

**"Just 4 Boys":** We are requesting funds for the fourth annual summer camp program for at-risk boys aged 7-12 called "Just 4 Boys." We invite trusted and respected men and women of all ages in our community who love the Lord, love to have fun, and have a heart to build into the lives of the next generation. These volunteers are able to build relationships with the boys as well as work with them, showing them the love of Christ.

This program is specifically intended to provide fun and challenging activities for boys, opportunities for presentation of the gospel, spiritual growth and development, community service projects, and Christ-centered achievement opportunities. Funding will help us to continue to provide activities such as art projects, day trips, camping, cooking, fishing, swimming, music and science. Not only did we increase the number of weeks of "Just 4 Boys" day camp from three to four last year, we also increased our camper numbers from 19-22 boys and hope to increase those numbers this year with the use of the funds requested. With more campers, additional food, supplies, transportation and staffing will be needed.

It is clear that the lives of the boys have been touched in a positive way. For example, one young camper with some special needs struggled with homesickness and fear of the water. With the help of program staff, he successfully overcame his fear of overnight camping, and he learned to swim. Those successes allowed him to make the decision to be baptized here at Military Street Baptist Church. Several of these campers have also been attending the Choices After School Program, which shows us that healthy relationships are being built, lives are being changed and that the church is committed to breaking the cycle of poverty in our community.

With these funds from the ABCUSA Matthew 25 grant, we anticipate that the Adopt-a-Block of Aroostook ministries will continue to be strengthened and deepened. We also anticipate that this corner of the Crown of Maine will begin to shine for the Kingdom. Thank you for prayerfully considering our requests.

**PROJECTED EXPENSES**

***Just 4 Boys Summer Program***

***Total Program Cost***

***\$4,512.29***

**Equipment & Misc.**

Supplies	510.00
T- Shirts	350.00
Sports Equipment & Games	300.00
Food for program and overnight campout	400.00
Curriculum	125.00
Transportation-Gasoline for Van	150.00

**subtotal**

**\$1,835.00**

**Special Outings**

Lake Days	150.00
Archery & Fishing Day Trip	190.00
Local Field Trips	200.00
Rock Climbing @ University of Maine PI	125.00

**subtotal**

**\$765.00**

**Total requested for  
Just 4 Boys**

**\$2,500.00**

**PROJECTED EXPENSES**

***Choices Afterschool Program***

***Total Program Cost***

***\$3,944.98***

**Equipment & Misc.**

Transportation-Gasoline for Van	200.00
School Smart Deluxe Rhythm Band Music Kit	214.98
Curriculum & Posters	200.00
2 Educator Tumbling Mats	400.00
Healthy Snacks	650.00
Field Trips-Bowling, Roller & Ice Skating	200.00

**Total requested for  
Choices Afterschool**

**\$1,864.98**

**Total amount of request**

**\$4,364.98**

## Gift in Kind-Donations

### Military Street Baptist (MSBC) 2014-2015 Matthew 25 Grant

#### *Facility*

##### *Utilities*

Facility Space Usage	1,500.00	GIK
Electricity	250.00	GIK
Telephone	75.00	GIK
Water	100.00	GIK

**Total utilities 1,925.00**

#### *Salaries*

##### *Boys Camp Administrative Hours*

Administration Hours by MSBC (\$16.75 hr. x 60) \$1,005.00

##### *Choices Administrative Hours*

Administration Hours by MSBC (\$16.75 hr. x 96) \$1,608.00

**Total GIK Salaries \$2,613.00**

#### *Volunteers*

##### *Volunteer Hours*

Total of Volunteer Hours\* (\$16.53 hour x 1,603 hrs.) \$26,497.59 GIK

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**Total vol. hrs. 29,010.59**

**Total G.I.K. Donations \$33,548.59**

\*[http://independentsector.org/volunteer\\_time](http://independentsector.org/volunteer_time)



## Just 4 Boys - 2013 Pictorial

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## Choices Afterschool-2013 Pictorial

