

## 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 Dismas House of Massachusetts, Inc.  
Affiliation with ABCUSA partnered with First Baptist Church of Worcester  
Address Po Box 30125, Worcester, MA 01603  
Phone 508-579-9249 Federal Tax ID# 54-2075825  
Contact person Dave McMahon email cmdismashouse@aol.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 \$210,840

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

6. Your other funding source(s) see attached 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) David McMahon Date 4/22/14

Printed Name/Title DAVID MCMAHON CO-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.

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.



Dismas House of Massachusetts seeks funding in the amount of \$5,000 from the American Baptist Church USA to supplement the grocery budget at its Dismas Family Farm site.

### **Organization Information**

For over 25 years, Dismas House of Massachusetts has provided advocacy, housing, and programming to one of Worcester, MA's most underserved populations—homeless former prisoners. Dismas employs a three-tiered rehabilitative housing sequence that takes at-risk men and gradually reintegrates them into the Worcester community. Dismas operates a traditional halfway house, a three-quarter house (both in Worcester), and a vocational rehabilitative farm in Oakham, MA. The Dismas model is an integrated delivery of housing, addiction treatment, and vocational training, and has been recognized by the Milton Eisenhower Foundation (2007) and the Urban Institute (2002).

### **The Dismas Family Farm**

Recovery begins at the Dismas Family Farm in Oakham, MA, a unique transitional housing project that emphasizes the vocational training component of the Dismas model. Under the guidance of the Farm Steward, the men operate all aspects of a productive 35 acre organic farm. They grow vegetables and raise livestock using sustainable practices, and sell the produce at farmers' markets and in the Farm's community supported agriculture (CSA) program. Thus, residents generate revenue to keep the project going, and are active in creating their own solution.

The Farm is a sober, supportive environment where residents can begin to address the legal, financial, and medical problems they incurred while on the streets or in prison. Through its BAR None program, Dismas provides in-house counsel on minor legal issues, e.g.-custody, child support, bankruptcy, etc. The Farm's Restorative Healthcare Initiative helps residents identify and prioritize their healthcare needs, including insurance enrollment and selection of primary care providers. These are two of the many services Dismas provides that allow the men to stabilize their lives before moving on to Dismas's other housing sites.

### **Statement of Need**

The funds requested from the American Baptist Church USA would go directly toward the food needs of the residents at the Dismas Family Farm. Monday through Friday nights, volunteer cooks bring dinner to the Farm to share with the residents. This is one way that Dismas practices its mission of reconciling former prisoners and society, and provides a small portion of the men's food needs. Breakfasts, lunches, and all weekend meals, the men must prepare themselves. The Dismas Family Farm spends roughly \$9600 each year on communal food staples—bread, eggs, milk, peanut butter, etc.—that the men use to supplement their own personal food supplies.

Many of the homeless former prisoners who come to the Dismas Family Farm have had food needs unmet before and can be very protective of their personal supply of food. Dismas has found over the years that having a well-stocked supply of communal food is essential to achieving a peaceful group living situation. A \$5,000 contribution from the ABCUSA would allow the Dismas Family Farm to continue providing its residents with communal staples, while redirecting some of its existing grocery budget into programming (like BAR None and the Restorative Healthcare Initiative) for the residents.

<b>Dismas Family Farm</b>	
<b>Operating Budget, FY 2014</b>	
<b>INCOME</b>	
PROGRAM FEES	13,200
Fall Fundraiser	15,000
CSA	15,000
Ramlose	7,000
Shaw Foundation	20,000
Y-Initiative/corrections	82,400
Foundation M	10,000
Stoddard Trust	15,000
Alden	15,000
Farm Products/Produce	20,000
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 212,600</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Co-Executive Director	57,500
Farm Steward (1 FTE)	36,000
CSA Director	11,770
201.12 + 202-FICA/SS	9,520
Health Insurance	7,500
401 K	1,425
<b>201 + 203-TOTAL EMPLOYEE-RELATED</b>	<b>\$ 123,715</b>
221-Maintenance and Repairs	10,000
Farm Product Supplies	10,500
222-Property Insurance	9,000
222.4-Auto Insurance	5,000
222.5-Worker's Comp.	300
224-Resident Materials	2,125
225-Bank Fees	100
226-UTILITIES	13,000
235-GROCERIES	9,600
238-Special House Events	1,000
251-OFFICE/POSTAGE	500
251.8-Computer Expenses	500
261-TRAVEL/FUEL	7,500
290-Mortgage	15,000
Fall Fundraiser Expenses	3,000
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 210,840</b>
<b>SURPLUS/DEFICIT</b>	<b>\$ 1,760</b>



## **The Dismas Family Farm Program**

### **Dismas House of Massachusetts**

The Dismas Family Farm is a residential treatment community located on a 12-acre vegetable and wool farm in Oakham, MA. Former male prisoners, students, volunteers and others work together to create a community of recovery from substance abuse. We offer programs, and a structured community for homeless former prisoners. Former prisoners with criminal/addiction histories agree to follow the rules, house agreements and expectations described in this fact sheet.

The Dismas Family Farm assists in the transition of people released from jail into a supportive reentry program which can lead to placement into other community programs and housing resources offered by staff and partner agencies.

### **MISSION:**

The mission of the Dismas Family Farm is the reconciliation of former prisoners with society and society with former prisoners. The Dismas Family Farm will reduce recidivism by providing treatment and life skills to inmates to enhance their reintegration back into the community.

### **FIRST DAYS:**

On or before your prearranged day to move in, call Farm staff or have your case manager/social worker call to confirm that you will be moving in. When you get to the Dismas Family Farm, staff will assign you a room, have you sign a contract, and assign you a chore and a day to do dishes. New residents should speak with staff about services available to them.

**IMPORTANT: The Dismas Family Farm will work with you to make sure you have proper identification before you leave the program. (birth certificate, Social Security card, etc.)**

You must attend a minimum of three (3) AA or NA meetings a week either inside the house or at outside meetings. After your first six weeks you may go to meetings with a sponsor who is willing to meet with staff. If you are going to an outside meeting, staff must know what time the meeting starts & ends. Time will be allowed to go out for coffee or to chat with a sponsor.

### **HOUSE RULES AND CONSEQUENCES:**

Breaking any of the following rules indicates your unwillingness to live in a peaceful community and will result in your being asked to leave the house.

1. No violence, threat of violence, theft or destruction of property (this includes weapons of any kind). The use of violence means that you will be asked to leave the house immediately.

2. The use of illegal drugs or alcohol on the premises is against the rules. In addition, the use of drugs or

alcohol on or off premises by recovering substance abusers is prohibited. The use of drugs or alcohol means that you will be asked to leave the house immediately. The **Dismas Family Farm staff randomly tests for drugs and alcohol use.**

3. No sexual activity is allowed on the premises. No community member should engage another in a sexual relationship during his time at the Dismas Family Farm.

**If you are asked to leave the house and you are on parole or probation, your parole or probation officer will be notified when you leave.**

### **ROOMS:**

You are expected to sleep in your room at the Dismas Family Farm every night. You may not switch rooms without staff approval.

Please do not remove furnishings from the common areas.

### **APPEALS PROCESS:**

When a resident breaks a rule and is asked to leave the Dismas Family Farm, he has the right to appeal that decision to the community. Appeals will be brought to residents at the weekly house meeting. If a resident or staff do not accept that decision, either may appeal to the appropriate committee of the Board of Directors. Staff's decision stands during the appeals process.

**NOTE: Residents who are in their first six weeks of residency and are asked to leave the community do not have the right to appeal.**

### **HOUSE EXPECTATIONS AND DECISIONS:**

The spirit of the Dismas Family Farm is embodied in the community life of the house. The community is built in part on these shared experiences: evening meals, the house meeting, house activities, and weekly household chores. It is necessary as a member of the Dismas Family Farm to participate in all of these areas.

### **MEALS:**

There will be an evening meal every Monday through Friday night, provided by volunteers and occasionally by residents. Your participation is expected and important. The evening meal is at 6 PM. Special holiday meals will be prepared together with staff. Breakfast and lunch are prepared by residents. On Saturdays and Sundays, members of the house prepare the meals.

### **HOUSE MEETINGS:**

House meetings must be attended every week by all residents. The meetings are held once a week and are an important platform for group decision-making and for achieving consensus in areas of conflict or compromise.

**VISITS:**

Visitors are welcome at the Dismas Family Farm. Additionally, residents can invite guests to share dinner with them one time per week Monday through Friday. No visitors will be allowed in bedrooms at any time.

**EMPLOYMENT:**

You are allowed to obtain outside employment 90 days after arriving at the farm. Former prisoners should work with staff and partner agencies to get a job as a priority. Dismas Family Farm staff will assist residents in finding employment, but residents must understand that they are responsible for finding their own job. Staff are to be informed immediately by the resident upon obtaining or losing a job. Dismas Family Farm is a working farm. Those who are not employed will be expected to work the farm.

**CHORES:**

Household chores are to be done per agreement with the staff and the community. During the week your chore area should be made presentable. You also will do set-up and clean-up for the evening meal on your assigned night, as well as welcoming the cooks and assisting them.

**SMOKING:**

There is no smoking in any of the buildings on the grounds including the barn. If you do so you will be asked to leave, per the Board of Directors' decision.

**SERVICES:**

Residents meet weekly with the Dismas Family Farm staff for one-on-one case management sessions where residents set goals and receive services such as preparing a resume and a budget, applying for health benefits, resolving civil and criminal legal issues, accessing free health and dental care, reuniting with children, restoring good credit, obtaining driver's licenses, etc.

**ADDICTION RECOVERY:**

Residents with a substance abuse history should participate in a plan, agreed upon with staff, to support their recovery. Attendance at either AA or NA is a must and you are required to find a sponsor who works the steps of recovery and is willing to work the steps with you. You must seek contacts of other men in recovery.

**INTAKE POLICIES:**

According to the policy of Dismas House of Massachusetts, Inc., former prisoner applicants who want to live at the Dismas Family Farm must be interviewed at least 1-3 times and their criminal record must be reviewed before the decision to accept them can be made. No one with a **sexual offense history, arson history, or serial violent offenders** can be considered to live at the Dismas Family Farm.

**PROGRAM FEES:**

In exchange for paying program fees/rent, you are expected to put in around 20 hours of vocational training on the farm.

**HOUSE AGREEMENTS:**

During house meetings, residents can make new agreements, which, if agreed upon by the full consensus of the house, become house agreements. Following are agreements in effect:

1. The curfew for the first six weeks is 10 PM.
2. Chores rotate monthly.
3. Residents can request weekend passes to visit friends/family after successfully completing their first six weeks.
4. All guests must be accompanied by another resident & cannot help themselves to food and drink.
5. Quiet hours are in effect 24 hours a day, meaning that all radios, TVs, and voices should be kept at respectable levels.
6. All guests must leave by 9 PM.

**SEND YOUR APPLICATION OR OTHER  
CORRESPONDENCE TO:**

**THE DISMAS FAMILY FARM PROGRAM  
PO BOX 30125  
WORCESTER, MA 01603**