

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 Ypsilanti for the House of Faith 2015 Project

Affiliation with ABCUSA Central Region

Address 1110 W. Cross St., Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Phone 734-482-7380

Federal Tax ID# 38-6005180

Contact person Dolly R. Tittle

email tittlejd@sbcglobal.net

2. Please submit with your application a copy of:

- Your mission statement: **First Baptist Church of Ypsilanti's mission statement is "Leading people to faith in Jesus Christ and equipping them to live as servants devoted to Jesus Christ and His Church."**
- 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. **(see attachment)**

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 \$35,000

5. Amount being requested from the ABCUSA Matthew 25 Grant \$1,000

6. Your other funding source(s) November's Communion Offering

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) _____ Date _____

Printed Name/Title Dolly R. Tittle, Mission Team and House of Faith Coordinator

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. Only electronic submissions will be accepted.



Budget Items for a Typical Refurbished Home (Provided by Habitat for Humanity)

Cabinets	\$1,500
Concrete work	\$1,200
Countertops	\$1,200
Driveway	\$3,000
Drywall	\$3,500 (materials and finishing labor)
Electrical	\$2,500
Flooring	\$1,500
Framing Lumber	\$1,000
HVAC, including furnace	\$3,000
Insulation	\$1,000 to \$3,500
Siding	\$2,800 (plus labor)
Trusses/Roofing	\$2,000 (plus labor)
Windows	\$2,200
Shed	\$800 (materials)
Total (including an estimate for materials and labor)	\$35,000

Typically around 9 area congregations participate

Congregation	Amount pledged and given
First Presbyterian Church, Ann Arbor	\$20,000
First Baptist Church, Ypsilanti	\$1,000

There are only two churches included in the table above because as it is evident, one carries the weight of the bulk of the budget. Our church would like to increase their giving at a pace that would allow increasing our workday's service. This will be explained further in Section 3.

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.)

For the fifth year in a row, First Baptist Church of Ypsilanti will be partnering with Habitat for Humanity of Huron Valley and other area congregations to renovate a house for a hardworking low-income family in Washtenaw County. Our group of churches sponsors the renovation of an entire home, called the House of Faith. The budget for this renovation is \$35,000. Our church has been giving \$1,000 through our communion offering. This collection starts on communion Sunday in November and lasts throughout the rest of the month, just in time for our due date in December. This year our offering decreased but Mission Team funds supplemented so that we could fulfill our pledge.

The monetary contribution correlates with the amount of time we are able to serve hands-on and provide meals for the workers. In our case that would be typically four days. These are 9 am to 4 pm workdays that resemble going away on a Mission trip except you are in town serving your local community. This part is important to us because the renovations are done in Ypsilanti and we are the only church in this project from Ypsilanti.

As it was shown in the budget page, one particular congregation has been blessed with an endowment that covers the bulk of it. It is not clear for how many more years the Jeane Seeley Mission Fund of First Presbyterian, Ann Arbor, will be available for this project. We do not compare in size or resources but the need to secure additional funds for the future of this project is visible. As our congregation goes through the Re-Tool process, we are looking for ways to increase our giving. As we increase our giving to the House of Faith, we can also increase our participation. This will pose a challenge to our church, yet not an unattainable goal. If we get the \$1,000.00 grant this year, we would have to double the work days and meals that we provide. Next year we would need to find ways in which to increase both our giving and work days, etc. It will push us to grow in service and giving in reasonable increments.

Other than the fact that House of Faith serves the Ypsilanti community, it is a program that works! This is how they explain it in their website h4h.org, "The homeownership program at Habitat for Humanity of Huron Valley empowers families to build a new life for themselves through simple, decent, affordable homeownership. Beautiful, energy-efficient Habitat homes are sold to individuals and families who qualify and are approved for our program. [...] We renovate homes in partnership with qualifying partner families and the community, and then sell the homes with zero percent interest mortgages to partnering families. Huron Valley Habitat also works closely with partner families to prepare them to be successful homeowners." In other words, neighborhoods will not only gain a high efficiently restored house but also neighbors who are serious about their financial obligations to it. It is contrary to what this particular neighborhood of Gault Village in Ypsilanti has seen in the past where people walked away from their mortgages. Thus, the revitalization is being done at multiple levels and in our case, in the name of Jesus, to whom we give all honor and glory.

Finally, we have seen how this project changes the lives of the new homeowners because we get to meet the families and work side by side with them. Many are not only first time homeowners but first generation homeowners. Their new found stability keeps them away from homelessness and poverty. This opportunity allows them to break the cycle for their children and future generations. For our congregation, it has been a time to give that has strengthened relations with one another and created memorable stories.

We pray for our future involvement and put it in God's hands. This grant would make it possible to expand our work in this project and help another family, our own community, while we glorify our Lord Jesus, our savior and redeemer!