

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 Celebrate Life Project: \$4,980.00

5. Amount being requested from the ABCUSA Matthew 25 Grant \$4,980.00

6. Your other funding source(s) No other funding is required

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 09/01/13

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. Only electronic submissions will be accepted.



First Baptist Church Of Omaha
Matthew 25 Grant Proposal
Celebrate Life Project

The Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays typically bring to mind thoughts of worship, family, friends, memories, celebrations, food, and anticipation. But for people living in poverty, alone without family or friends, homeless, or hungry, the holidays take on an entirely different meaning, especially between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Numerous Churches and organizations provide meals on the holidays but the time in between the holidays can be a time of loneliness, sadness, and desperation. With little or no money to spend, there will not be any Christmas shopping or special meals. While many people are attending celebrations and exquisite dinners and spending time with family and friends, there are people sitting alone at home or in shelters with little hope.

Being an inner city Church provides a unique set of blessings and opportunities. God has blessed and nurtured First Baptist Church Of Omaha for over 150 years for such a time as this. A time for FBCO to host and join together with thirteen Churches for one very important mission - to show the love and kindness of Jesus by serving a meal on Saturdays to the people in the surrounding neighborhood who are without jobs, not making ends meet, or just need somebody to talk to. For some of these people, it is the only hot meal they receive each week. On a typical Saturday, over 200 honored guests are served a meal at FBCO.

We would like to use the Matthew 25 Grant to host a meal in between Thanksgiving and Christmas for our honored guests who attend our Community Meal on Saturdays. The meal would be catered in and served by the members of First Baptist Church Of Omaha to celebrate their lives and show them they are important and God loves them very much. We would like to take this opportunity to eat together, talk, and get to know our neighbors better. We want them to see FBCO as a place where they feel safe to come and learn about God, worship together, and make friends. Since many of our honored guests will not be receiving Christmas gifts, we would also like to send a small gift home with each guest.

The catered meal would be planned for 300 people. Each meal would include the following.

- Salad
- Roll
- Entree
- Vegetable
- Potato
- Dessert

There would be a total of 280 gifts purchased. The gifts would consist of a bag with food items, a pillow, or a blanket. Please see Attachment B for the Celebrate Life Project budget.

Finances over the last ten years have changed dramatically for FBCO. The economy has taken a toll on the finances at FBCO but God has remained faithful and the congregation has remained committed. Our monthly income struggles to cover the monthly expenses. The majority of our monthly income is used for wages, utilities, insurance, and critical building maintenance. By the time these expenses are paid, there usually isn't any money left over for special projects. In 2013, over \$40,000 has been borrowed from our reserve funds. Some of the money was used for major building issues that had to be addressed such as the boiler system and water heater. God has blessed us with creative people who have a heart for the Lord and can produce a successful and exciting program on a small budget. Due to our current finances, FBCO will not be able to fund the Celebrate Life Project if a Matthew 25 Grant is not received.

We feel the Celebrate Life Project would truly be a blessing for our neighbors as well as the FBCO congregation. God is working miracles in our neighborhood every day and FBCO is blessed to be a part of God's Ministry in this community.

Thank you for considering our grant proposal for the Celebrate Life Project at First Baptist Church Of Omaha. We appreciate this opportunity.

**First Baptist Church Of Omaha
Matthew 25 Grant Proposal
Celebrate Life 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, our one year and five year goals were determined along with the manner in which we were going to achieve these goals. It was also decided that a committee would be formed to review and update our Vision Portfolio.

We are currently in the process of updating our Vision Portfolio which includes our vision, mission, slogan, logo, and strategic plan. The existing Vision Portfolio is provided below.

Vision

"Leading People to Jesus Christ and Helping One another Grow in a Relationship with Him."

Slogan

"Forward in Faith, Empowered by the Spirit"

Logo

The symbol of a torch which together with the slogan indicates that FBCO is a Church on the move, looking ahead to what God has in store, seeking to be light bearers to the community and the world around us.

Motto

"Gospel: God's Word For Everyone"

**First Baptist Church Of Omaha
Matthew 25 Grant Proposal
Celebrate Life Project
Attachment B
Budget**

Celebrate Life Project Budget			
Item	Quantity	Per Item Cost	Total Cost
Meal	300	\$11.00	\$3,300.00
Gift	280	\$6.00	\$1,680.00
Total			\$4,980.00