

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." 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: First Baptist Church of Charlotte-Tide Me Over Ministry (feeding hungry children during 2013-2014 school year with weekend food bag

Affiliation with ABCUSA This is a ministry of First Baptist Church Charlotte, MI

Address: 1110 South Cochran Avenue, Charlotte, Michigan 48813

Phone 517-543-6900 Federal Tax ID# 38-2060157

Contact person: Mona Ellard email ellard@msu.edu

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 \$16,000

5. Amount being requested from the ABCUSA Matthew 25

Grant \$5,000

6. Your other funding source(s) The Congregation

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) *Robert L. Crouch* Date July 15, 2013

Printed Name/Title Robert L. Crouch, Sr. 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 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

3. How do you plan to use the requested funds? How will funds specifically assist individuals battling poverty and its effects?

Charlotte, Michigan, seven years ago was the largest school district in the rural area of Eaton County with four elementary schools, a new middle school and high school. Since that time, the community has changed. Two of the elementary schools have closed due to families leaving the area. Going unnoticed by the general public was the quality of the children's lives, especially in meeting their basic need for food.

Kim Caudell, principal of the Upper Elementary School, informed the church that in 2010-2011 school years 52% (190 of the 380) fourth and fifth grade children qualified for free or reduced lunches and she would welcome the Tide Me Over program because she knew children were not able to get enough food at home.

In fall 2012, the First Baptist Church of Charlotte began a new community ministry for the 2012-2013 school years called Tide Me Over. Tide Me Over provided a weekly weekend food bags to 4th and 5th grade children in Charlotte Upper elementary School, by partnering with Charlotte Public schools to identify the children and their families who need extra support to reduce hunger.

A partnership with Greater Lansing Food Bank was established to purchase food for the Tide Me Over project to secure food at lower prices. However due to the limited food donations to the Food bank by food manufacturers, food had to be bought at near regular consumer prices.

In the 2012-13 school years approximately 2231 bags were delivered to the students with an average cost of \$4.68 a bag weekly. The number of students served averaged 72 students per week. As this project finished up for its first successful school year, **changes have happened at the Charlotte Upper Elementary School.** During this present school year, the percent of children receiving free and reduced lunches has risen from 52% to 54%. Also in the new 2013-2014 school years, the Upper Elementary School will include 4th, 5th and 6th grades.

Due to the ever increasing costs of food, next year's budget has been set at \$5.00 per weekly bag of food. **It is anticipated that the church will provide weekend bags to 100 students during the 2013-2014 school years for 32 weeks. The cost of feeding one child for the school year is approximately \$160. The budget for the 2013-2014 school years is \$16,000.**

The First Baptist Church of Charlotte is preparing to serve this additional grade level and larger student needs. All money received from this grant will be used exclusively to purchase food.

It is for these reasons, First Baptist Church of Charlotte seeks \$5000 to support the Tide Me Over Ministry for 2013-2014 school year.

Tide Me Over Ministry Mission:

The Tide Me Over Ministry mission is to feed identified hungry children in the Charlotte Public Upper Elementary School, by providing weekend bags of nutritious food during the school year.

Tide Me Over Financials for 2012-2013						
2012 Deposits		19401.00				
2013 Deposits		70.00				
Total Deposits		19471.00				
Food Expenses						
	Aug	1569.43				
	Sept	1319.48				
	Oct	3491.53				
	Nov	1572.48				
	Dec	203.29				
	Jan	0.00				
	Feb	141.96				
	Mar	539.95				
	Apr	2226.47				
	May	0.00				
	June	0.00				
		11064.59				
Other Expenses		881.25				
Total Expenses		11945.84				
		7525.16	Balance remaining after 2012/2013 year			

July 3, 2013

Dear Matthew 25 Grant Review Committee:

The First Baptist Church of Charlotte's Tide Me Over Ministry received a \$5,000 American Baptist Churches Matthew 25 Grant last year to be used to feed hungry children in our community. With this grant and donations from others it allowed us to do God's work by providing hungry students with a personal bag of food every weekend for 32 week. Needy fourth and fifth grades students were identified through the Charlotte Public Upper Elementary School system.

The Tide Me Over Ministry delivered approximately 2231 food bags this year serving an average of 72 students per week.

Over 60 volunteers from ages 5 years to over 65 years were involved in a variety of weekly tasks. Enclosed is a media presentation that was developed to thank those volunteers. Each volunteer was captured doing the work of the Lord.

Principal Kim Caudell interviewed a sampling of the Tide Me Over students. The children indicated they all shared their food bags with their families. They also discussed the types of food choices offered and their likes and dislikes.

When asked if they had anything else they wanted to share, they had these comments: "It is great to have people care about me," Thank you!", "Thank you for helping my family." It is a great thing for poor people." "I'm glad you do this for me because we don't have much money."

At the end of the school year a Parent Survey was sent home asking for parent impressions of the Tide Me Over program. The parents indicated that had used all the food. They also confirmed that the food choices offered had indeed been appropriate for their child's needs. Many offered additional comments: Thanks, What a blessing! Just wanted to say Thank you, and Thought it was wonderful!

What a surprise it was to receive a Thank you card from the Upper Elementary Teachers. The card was signed by the 16 teachers with many comments such as: Thank you so much for caring. Your love is witnessed every week. Thank you for providing this great service to our students in need. So appreciative of all you do!

Through this special American Baptist Churches grant our church was inspired to establish the Tide Me Over Ministry to serve hungry children.

The Tide Me Over Ministry will continue into the school years 2013-2014. Principal Caudell of the Upper Elementary School has recently disclosed new poverty data. The data shows community families continue to be at risk of hunger. During this present school year, the percent of children receiving free and reduced lunches has risen from 52% to 54%. Also in the new 2013-2014 school years, the Upper Elementary School will include 4th, 5th and 6th grades. It is anticipated that our church will offer weekend bags to 100 students during the 2013-2014 school year.