

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. Grant awards will be sent to the ABC church or organization, checks will not be made payable to an individual or ministry.

1. General Information:

Organization Name First Baptist Church of Mt. Vernon
Affiliation with ABCUSA (Check made payable to) First Baptist Church
Mailing Address 1600 Salem Rd
Mt. Vernon, IL 62864
Phone 618/242-2877 Federal Tax ID# 37-6006960
Contact person Gail Farnham email gailfar43@gmail.com
618-316-0014

2. Please submit with your application a copy of:

- Your mission statement (Loving God - Serving Others)
- 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.

(Included in our addendum)

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.)

The current Brown Bag account is \$5,024.75. 6/1/15

4. Total cost of the project \$9900

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

6. Your other funding source(s) About 1/8 of the funds come from another church and 2 local sororities.

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) Gail Farnham Date 6/17/15

Printed Name/Title GAIL FARNHAM, MODERATOR

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 Tina.Turner@abc-usa.org. Only electronic submissions will be accepted.



The First Baptist Church of Mt. Vernon, Illinois, is applying for Matthew 25 Grant Funds in the amount of \$5000, however, any amount awarded to us would be greatly appreciated. Receipt of the monies will help us continue our weekly Brown Bag food program to 177 children in the city school system, plus one school on the outlying edge of Mt. Vernon.

Our Brown Bag food program helps define who we are as a church body, allowing us to demonstrate **our Mission Statement which is "Loving God – Serving Others" in a very tangible way.** Prior to 2008, we were a 'formerly large' church wondering how long we would be able to stay open. As we searched for something meaningful to do, we kept coming back to the need to feed our children. Our program started small, with the preparation and delivery of 30 food bags per week as a step of faith. Despite our continuing decline in attendance and advancing ages, the program has continued and grown. With its growth, we have found a way to meet a genuine need in our own community. In the six preceding school years, we have provided 16,686 food bags. We don't know whether our church will grow again, however, we do know we will continue to serve the children as long as we are here.

As we are half-way through our seventh year of the Brown Bag food program, we are excited and proud of the differences it makes in the Mt. Vernon area. Teachers continue to tell us that our food supplies for the weekends help meet the basic needs of children-at-risk. They feel it results in a better learning environment for the 177 children we currently serve in grades K – 8. Each bag contains 11 items including some fruit, protein, breakfast items, etc. and costs about \$2 per bag. The church bears the cost of the bags, etc. and uses every cent of donations received to purchase the food items.

We applied for and received monies from you in the spring of 2013 and feel that money allowed us to fulfill our program demands last school year and meet a new situation this school year. We had been providing food on the 2-day weekends and another entity had been covering 3-day weekends, however, when their funding did not come through, we have been able to add those extra weekends to our schedule. We no longer question whether the funds will be there, we simply commit to the need and God does provide.

We plan to begin visiting churches throughout the county to share the fundamentals of our program and hope to interest some others in starting similar programs in the rural schools.

Last school year cost over \$7200, with a record 175 bags per week for 22 weekends. This is an amazing accomplishment for a congregation whose average attendance is around 28 per week, with 6 small children in that number. This year we have committed to 177 bags each week for 28 weekends, a cost of over \$9,900. Receipt of the grant funds will allow us to meet those needs and expand the program to another school next fall. We will identify the new school after our drive to enroll more churches is completed.

Our operating budget does not include this program as a line item, relying instead on donations. About 1/8 of the required funds are received from one other church and two sororities. We continue to look for new sources of revenue to help sustain and expand our program. We thank you for your consideration.

/s/Gail Farnham, Moderator (gailfar43@gmail.com)

First Baptist Church, 1600 Salem Road, Mt. Vernon, IL 62864



Gail Farnham <gailfar43@gmail.com>

Addendum to Matthew 25 Grand request

1 message

Gail Farnham <gailfar43@gmail.com>

Thu, Jan 29, 2015 at 2:22 PM

To: Beth.Fogg@abc-usa.org

First Baptist Church, Mt. Vernon, IL

Our Brown Bag program budget is calculated as follows...

We shop for and prepare 177 bags per week, at a cost of \$2 per bag, which equals \$354 per week. For the 2014-2015 school year, we are providing bags for 28 different weeks which totals \$9,912. This year is our most ambitious undertaking yet for the program, by doing 28 weeks.

As I mentioned earlier, this is NOT a budget item for our church, but is totally funded through donations, fund-raisers and two grants in the eight years of the program.



The picture shows just a portion of the work area prior to bagging the items for delivery.

Thank you for your consideration.

Gail Farnham, Moderator
First Baptist Church