

## 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 Community of Hope  
Affiliation with ABCUSA (Check made payable to) First Baptist Church of North Hollywood  
Mailing Address 11210 Otsego Street, North Hollywood CA 91601  
  
Phone 818 763 4356 Federal Tax ID# 95-1950609  
Contact person Ida Carter-Fisher email firstbaptistnoho@sbcglobal.net  
icarterfisher7@gmail.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 \$7,180.00
5. Amount being requested from the ABCUSA Matthew 25 Grant \$5,000.00
6. Your other funding source(s) donations from 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) Ida Carter-Fisher Date August 27, 2015

Printed Name/Title Deacon for Outreach Ministry

### 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](mailto:Tina.Turner@abc-usa.org). Only electronic submissions will be accepted.



## **Mission Statement**

In demonstration of God's love for all persons, our *Community of Hope* ministry exists for the greater hope, opportunity and wholeness of our many neighbors in poverty. We embody Christ's call to welcome and serve "the least of these" among us by providing food, hospitality, spiritual encouragement, advocacy and assistance to gain housing, employment, and other means of empowerment. We host a weekly morning outreach with showers, hot meal, friendship, spiritual community and case management, as well as weekly distribution of food from our *Window of Hope* food pantry.

## Financial Statement for this ministry

MINISTRY EXPENSE	BUDGET
Purchase of food pantry items including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Perishables (yogurt, cheese, juice, fruits, vegetables)</li><li>• Single-serve ready-to-eat items</li><li>• Selected canned goods and dry goods</li><li>• Non-food items (T-shirts, blankets, personal care items, etc.)</li></ul>	\$2,880 (=48 wks @ \$60/wk)
Pick up and transport of weekly and monthly food allotments (from MEND; L. A. Food Bank; Children's Hunger Fund; others)	\$1,440 (=48 wks @ \$30/wk)
Purchase of food service supplies, kitchen supplies, staples, weekly perishables, and other menu items for weekly homeless meal outreach	\$1,920 (=48 wks @ \$40/wk)
Printing of Psalm prayer cards; purchase of other small Bible-related take-away items for spiritual insight and faith enrichment	\$400
Purchase and installation of awning to more clearly identify our food pantry site ("Window of Hope")	\$400
A-frame sign for Window of Hope site	\$140
<b>TOTAL</b>	<hr/> <b>\$7,180</b>

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

Daily food insecurity and nutrition deficit critically affect our many neighbors in poverty. Our food pantry, *Window of Hope*, has aimed at alleviating a substantial part of those needs by providing canned goods, dry goods, and on very rare occasion, perishables. For those who are unable to cook, we try to provide single-serve ready-to-eat items. But this vital ministry has hovered at the level of minimal sustainability. Requested funds will be used to secure fresh and frozen perishables and certain non-perishables that will greatly expand our helping capacity. Requested funds will also enable weekly pick up and transport of food from humanitarian organizations such as M.E.N.D., Children's Hunger Fund, Los Angeles Food Bank, and from retailers. Presently we are able to give these food supplies to a person on a monthly basis. Funding will enable us to increase this to two or more times per month, per person.

Many of our neighbors are in extreme poverty and are homeless. We minister far beyond the food pantry by hosting a weekly outreach with showers, hot meals, spiritual encouragement, friendship and community. We come alongside our many homeless neighbors not only to provide some immediate comfort and dignity, but also to be an important step on the journey toward housing, healing and hope. At the centerpiece of our weekly outreach program is case management that connects homeless persons to housing, training and employment opportunities, as well as to government assistance and emergency shelter. We have the weekly benefit of one staff person from the San Fernando Valley Rescue Mission, "Homeless Navigator" Jim Brown. Starting in mid-September a seminary intern, Connie Cobb, will focus weekly volunteer hours on this outreach ministry to expand the case-management capacity.

Another effect of extreme poverty is loss of personal hygiene and the health vulnerabilities that go with that. The San Fernando Valley Rescue Mission brings their mobile shower unit to us each week so that dozens of persons get showers and clean clothing. However, the Mission's arrangement with us is contingent on our church providing a ministry of the Word and a meal to those who come for showers, so that we are working hand in hand in a broader context of restoration and empowerment, beyond simply showers. This whole partnership has been a tremendous blessing! We have witnessed the creation of a community of faith, a congregation of about thirty homeless persons who come each week. Together we celebrate faith and support one another. Participants come for the showers and then stay on for the hospitality and ministry time that culminates in a big, freshly-cooked meal. Funding will increase our capacity to sustain and enlarge this vital work, and enable us to maintain a high-quality menu of delicious and nutritious food, served with love and friendship by our team of volunteers from our church Outreach Ministry, and others from our community.

Requested funds will also be used to print Psalm cards and to purchase other compact resources that our guests and neighbors can take with them at all times to encourage them in their faith and walk with God. This in turn opens the door to greater possibilities for their wholeness and hope.

In these ways, *Matthew 25 Grant* funds will enable us to make a weekly, measurable, positive difference in the lives of our many neighbors in poverty, through our *Community of Hope* ministries.