

ABCUSA Matthew 25 Grand Application
Application deadline – September 1, 2014

- 1. Organization Name:** The Helping House Ministry of Mount Zion Baptist Church,
-Affiliate of ABCUSA.
-1604 19th Ave., Seattle, WA 98112
-(206) 322-6500
-Federal Tax ID #91-9722334
-Contact person: Deacon Leslyn Jones-Petitt lespetitt@hotmail.com

2. Helping House Mission Statement:

“The Helping House is an outreach ministry of Mount Zion Baptist Church whose purpose is to help people in need by providing clothing, toiletries and small household items to men, women, and children in need throughout the community.”

Financial statement for the Christmas Day of Caring:

2014 Mount Zion Baptist Church Helping House Ministry Christmas Day of Caring Budget		
Revenue:		
	MZBC Congregation	\$4,200
	Individual community donors	1,000
	Grants	5,000
	Corporations	<u>1,800</u>
Total Revenue		\$12,000
Expenses:		
	Christmas Gifts @ children and teens	\$9,900
	Food	1,050
	Publicity	600
	Decorations/signage	300
	Porta-potty rental	<u>150</u>
Total Expenses:		\$12,000
Surplus/Deficit		0

- 3. How do you plan to use the requested funds?** An award of \$5,000 would provide financial resources needed for the Helping House Ministry to serve homeless and low income individuals/families during our annual Christmas Day of Caring event in December.

How will the funds specifically assist individuals battling poverty and its effects? It is important to know the history of the Helping House Ministry. The Helping House was organized in October 2005 as a result the vision that God gave me to provide direct aid to the victims of Hurricane Katrina and Rita. As I watched those tragic events unfold, I knew that getting help to people so far away would be a challenge. With the support of many volunteers, Mount Zion Baptist Church in partnership with several other churches in the area began to mobilize volunteers to collect, sort and distribute donations of clothing, toiletries, household items and food from the church/community to help the hurricane victims. To my amazement, many people rushed to assist by donating time, money, and tangible items to provide relief. Through our combined efforts, resources were immediately sent to Louisiana by plane and bus.

During this time many people in need living in the Seattle area also requested help, so it quickly became apparent that these resources could also benefit many homeless people facing poverty in our region. As an ordained Deacon, I consulted with our diaconate regarding our local area need. As a result, we formally established the Helping House ministry to serve the needs of homeless and low income members of our own community on a year-round basis. Helping people enrich their lives by promoting self-enrichment and self-reliance is the focus of the Helping House mission.

The Helping House Ministry is located in a small building on the campus of Mount Zion Baptist Church in Seattle Washington. It is arranged like a boutique with an array of clothes, shoes, small household items, toiletries and other goods to support struggling families and individuals. All Helping House items are given away to those in need free of charge. The Helping House staff consists of volunteers, without any paid staff.

The major elements of the Helping House Ministry includes the following activities:

- Open store hours during two weekends per month throughout the year for any person or family to visit, shop and select items of need.
- Twice per month, the Helping House partners with the Mount Zion Street Feeding Ministry by providing them with clothing for the homeless and fresh bread and baked goods donated by Panera Bakery. The remaining bread and baked goods is donated to various homeless camps located in the City of Seattle.
- Collaboration with area not-for-profit agencies that specialize in supporting homeless women and children affected by domestic violence, by providing visits to “shop” at the Helping House.
- Leads the annual Christmas Day of Caring event.

These combined efforts of the Helping House serves approximately 1,500 - 2,000 individuals annually.

The "Christmas Day of Caring" is the major signature event for the Helping House Ministry and Mount Zion Baptist Church as a whole. During the first year after Hurricane Katrina, the goal was to make sure that the families who relocated from Louisiana were able to celebrate Christmas, In its 8th year, the purpose of this event continues to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ by inviting people in need to share the blessings of God at Christmas time. This year's event will be held on December 20, 2014 at the main campus and Helping House of Mount Zion

Baptist Church. Based on previous years, it is anticipated that approximately 1,200 – 1,500 people will attend. During the “Day of Caring” Mount Zion hosts a new toy and gift giveaway for children and teens, several new bicycles, and large toy giveaways, household items, a nutritious meal, and other resources for families in need. Hundreds of children receive new toys, Christmas stockings filled with fruit and toys, as well as a hot nutritious meal, clothing, household items, and a day of fellowship. Families also receive information on healthcare resources, educational programs, and housing assistance. Individuals and families are also able to visit the Helping House to obtain other items normally available throughout the year.

Staffed by over 100 volunteers from high schools, sororities, fraternities, non-profit organizations, and churches, this event alone has helped an average of 1,200 people in need each year in our region during the past several years. The “Christmas Day of Caring” usually receives media coverage from local television, newspapers, and radio stations and volunteers produce a video of the event each year.

An ABCUSA grant award would be used as supplemental funding to support the purchase of Christmas gifts for children and teens, food for all attendees and event publicity.

4. Total cost of the Project: \$12,000.

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

6. Your other funding source(s): The Christmas Day of Caring receives monetary and in-kind donations from our church congregation, individual community members, area businesses and other community-based organizations. For example, in recent years we have enjoyed support from Walmart, Brotherton Cadillac dealership, the Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle, Toys for Tots and Black Fire Fighters of Seattle, WA, and Panera Bakery.

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 (and video) within six months of receipt of the grant.

(Signed) *Deacon Leslyn Jones-Petitt*

(Date) 8/31/14

Printed Name: Deacon Leslyn Jones-Petitt, Coordinator
Helping House -
Christmas Day of Caring