

## ABCUSA MATTHEW 25 GRANT APPLICATION

### 1. General Information:

Organization Name **Henderson Memorial Baptist Church**

Affiliation with ABCUSA. **Please make check payable to HMBC Fellowship Fund**

Mailing Address **P.O. Box 147, Farmington, ME 04938**

Phone **207-778-2163**

Contact Person **Rev. Dr. Susan Crane**

Email **[hmbcpastor@outlook.com](mailto:hmbcpastor@outlook.com)**

2. Attached please find a mission statement and a financial statement for the proposed ministry (p. 1).

3. How do you plan to use the requested funds? How will the funds specifically assist individuals battling poverty and its effects? Attached (p. 2)

4. Total cost of the project: **\$2,500.00**

5. Amount being requested from the ABCUSA Matthew 25 Grant: **\$2,000.00**

6. Your other funding sources: **Members of the Henderson Memorial Baptist Church and friends of Western Maine Homeless Outreach Shelter, will donate the other \$500.00.**

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) **Susan E. Crane**

Date **August 25, 2015**

Printed Name/Title **Rev. Dr. Susan E. Crane** **Pastor, Henderson Memorial Baptist Church**

*The proposed MATTHEW 25 Housing Assistance Ministry is similar to a Matthew 25 Grant the HMBC Diaconate received in October, 2013. Those funds have been kept separate and used only for assisting graduates of the Western Maine Homeless Outreach Shelter in Farmington with any expenses they might incur within 6 months of moving into new housing. Experience has shown us that every family requesting assistance only needed help with the security deposit. Therefore, we are revising the design of our ministry and offering to raise some of the funds locally. The church, the shelter, and most of all, the shelter graduates are very grateful for this blessing, which has made it possible for more to be housed independently and sustainably.*

**MISSION STATEMENT OF HENDERSON MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH**

We, the people of Henderson memorial Baptist Church understand ourselves to be God's people and members of the body of Christ. As the physical presence of the body of Christ, we are empowered by the Holy Spirit to serve and to witness. Through worship, prayer and Bible study, we seek to love God and grow spiritually, to the praise of God's glory.

Jesus commissions us to go out into the world and make disciples of all nations through outreach on the local level, to hands-on-missions throughout the world. This mission begins at church with teaching ministries that share the good news of Jesus' saving love, and then reaches out to others, inviting them to find new life in Christ through baptism and discipleship. By serving others in Christ's name, we seek to be his ministers in the world today. As disciples of Jesus Christ, we commit ourselves to follow in Jesus' footsteps, to do his will, to love God and love our neighbor.

**MISSION STATEMENT OF THE WESTERN MAINE HOMELESS OUTREACH SHELTER**

The Mission of Western Maine Homeless Outreach (WMHO) is to provide emergency shelter to homeless families from Western Maine. Our goal is to transform futures by strengthening families to become self-sustaining.

**MATTHEW 25 HOUSING ASSISTANCE BUDGET**

<b><u>2013-2015</u></b>	<b>REVENUE</b>	<b><u>2015-2016 Proposed</u></b>
<b>\$2,000</b>	Grant from ABCUSA	<b>\$2,000</b>
<b><u>100</u></b>	Donation(s)	<b><u>\$500</u></b>
<b>\$2,100</b>		<b>\$2,500</b>
	<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>	
<b>(265)</b>	(Partial) Security Deposit	<b>(500)</b>
<b>(500)</b>	Security Deposit	<b>(500)</b>
<b>(490)</b>	Security Deposit	<b>(500)</b>
<b>(490)</b>	Security Deposit	<b>(500)</b>
<b>(355)</b>	Security Deposit (not yet disbursed)	<b><u>(500)</u></b>
<b>\$(2,100)</b>		<b>\$(2,500)</b>

The proposed Matthew 25 Housing Assistance Ministry will be operated by the HMBC Diaconate through its Fellowship Fund, in coordination with the WMHO Shelter. HMBC members contribute monthly to the Fellowship Fund, which is used to assist our neighbors with basic needs they are financially unable to meet...such as helping to pay for electric bills, medication, groceries, and automobile gas. An ecumenical ministry in town raises and assists with \$50,000 in heating energy assistance for low income neighbors, and also operates the local Food Closet. The ecumenical ministry has a small fund that helps low-income neighbors with \$200 toward back rent or security deposits, but that fund may only be used for rentals within Franklin County.

When a group of concerned citizens succeeded in opening the Western Maine Homeless Outreach (WMHO) Shelter in Farmington on November 11, 2013, the primary goal was to help families solve their problems and manage to get themselves re-housed. The shelter has only 16 beds, so what the shelter is able to do for homeless families is on a small scale, but it has already made a significant difference by encouraging these families to take responsibility for their children, get jobs and new housing. So far, the shelter has operated primarily by donation. The Maine State Housing Authority (MSHA) has been unwilling to give new shelters any money for beds occupied each night, because of abuses in the system statewide. MSHA is currently reconfiguring its program to include newer shelters but only if the guests can demonstrate they are actively working to become independent and self-sustaining. In other words, shorter stays at the shelter will be rewarded.

WMHO is the first and only shelter in Franklin County – a poor, rural county where the number of subsidized housing units is inadequate and the average 2 bedroom rent is 20% higher than the median income earned in this area can afford. This means that shelter guests who are ready to move out and become self-sustaining are unable to do so, until they can accumulate enough money for a security deposit and first month's rent before signing a lease. Getting started in new housing can be a huge barrier, keeping guests in the shelter longer than they want or need to be there.

The Matthew 25 Housing Assistance Ministry, operated by the Diaconate of HMBC, helps guests who are ready to graduate from the shelter. Guests apply by filling out a budget and saving for the first month's rent. Matthew 25 funds will then be used to cover the security deposit for the family moving into their own housing again. Payments are made directly to the landlord. If the security deposit is eventually refunded, the family may use it for the next rental. The ecumenical housing assistance program is limited in amount and by geography, but Matthew 25 funds may be used for housing anywhere in Western Maine, and are not limited to housing only located in Franklin County. The least expensive housing available in this area costs an average of \$500 a month in rent; so, our Matthew 25 grants are for 'up to \$500 toward a security deposit.' The proposal is to have \$2,500 available to use for security deposits for families graduating from the WMHO Shelter; that would cover five families.

HMBC received a similar Matthew 25 Grant in October 2013 to be used for *any* expenses a family might face during their first six months after leaving the shelter. The first families to graduate were able to obtain fully-subsidized housing because of mental illness; and no Matthew 25 funds were requested. A year passed before any other families graduated, with four of them requesting help only for security deposits. Thus, the program is being reconfigured to address the primary need.

Friends of the WMHO Shelter have recognized what a blessing Matthew 25 security deposit assistance has been and are starting to also make donations, so the fund will continue to help graduating shelter families meet their goals to find housing and become sustainable.