

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 a direct relationship with American Baptist Churches USA to be eligible to apply, and only one application per church or Region will be considered per 12 month period. Grant funds may not be used to fund staff positions or for capital improvements to facilities. Grant awards will be sent to the ABC church or Region, checks will not be made payable to an individual or ministry.

1. General Information

Church or Region: **First Baptist Church of Canton, Ohio**

Region Affiliation with ABCUSA: **ABC of Ohio**

Ministry or Group receiving these funds: **Missions Community Outreach**

Mailing Address: **4110 38th Street NW, Canton, Oh 44718**

Phone: **330-493-3222 or 330-284-4665**

Federal Tax ID#: **34-0833502**

Contact person: **Rev. Kevin K. Thomas**

Email: k.thomas@fulldevotion.org

2. Please submit with your application a copy of:

- First Baptist Church mission statement. **See attached document**
- A financial statement FOR THIS MINISTRY. **See attached Projected Budget**

2. Specifically, how do you plan to use the requested funds? **TO PROVIDE FOOD AND SCHOOL SUPPLIES TO LOW INCOME FAMILIES OF ELEMETARY STUDENTS. (See attached document)**

3. How will the funds assist individuals battling poverty and its effects? **HELP ASSIST IN PROVIDING A QUALITY EDUCATION. (See attached document)**

5. Total cost of the project: **\$7000**

6. Amount being requested from the ABCUSA Matthew 25 Grant: **\$5000.00 - any amount will help us achieve our goals and impact as many students as possible in a district of 6000.**

7. Your other funding source(s): **The Mission Budget of First Baptist Canton and donations/price breaks from local vendors, 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/photos within six months of receipt of the grant.

Application submitted by: Rev. Kevin K. Thomas

Date: March 1, 2016

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; September 1 for grants distributed on October 15
- Completed applications should be sent via email to Tina.Turner@abc-usa.org. Only electronic submissions will be accepted. See the following information and instructions for more details.



Our Vision: To See Every Person Growing In Full Devotion To Christ!

Our Mission: We desire to enthusiastically worship God, grow committed disciples, serve passionately, give generously and genuinely love people!



Growing in "Full Devotion" is a journey that believers engage in for the rest of their lives. We believe a person who is a fully devoted follower of Jesus will exhibit at least the following five characteristics:

Worship – One who desires to worship the One True God in Spirit and in Truth. *John 4:24*

Grow – One who continues on a path toward spiritual maturity. *Ephesians 4:14-16*

Serve – One who recognizes that purpose is fulfilled as you serve. *1 Peter 4:10*

Give – One who desires to give generously of their time, talent, and treasure. *Luke 6:38*

Love – One who understands that he is called to love as Christ loves. *John 13:34*

PROJECTED BUDGET FOR FOOD AND SCHOOL SUPPLIES

EXPENSE:

(Part One) WEEKEND FOOD PROGRAM

Target: 100 students will receive a bag of food 2x month for 9 months.	<u>COST</u>
Bags of food: per student	\$2.50
Weekly Total: 100 students per week	\$250
Monthly Total: 200 students per month	\$500
Yearly Total: to provide weekend food bags to 1800 students	TOTAL \$4500

(Part Two) BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Target: 100 students will receive backpacks of School Supplies for the start of the school year.

Backpack Cost: per student **\$15.00** \$1500

School Supplies: \$10.00 per student including, pencils, crayons, markers,
colored pencils, folders, paper, glue, glue sticks and rulers. \$1000

Backpack & School Supplies: **TOTAL \$2500**

The Projected budget: - based on the ability for us to impact 100 students **TOTAL \$7000**

INCOME:

Missions of First Baptist Church **\$2000** plus individual donations.

MATTHEW 25 GRANT – possibility up to \$5000 **\$?**

3. HOW THE REQUESTED FUNDS WILL BE USED.

We believe it is important for First Baptist Canton to have a missional impact in our local community. We operate out of a perspective that asks, **“If FBC ceased to exist tomorrow, would people in our community notice?”** We certainly hope to make a difference for the Kingdom of Christ and help our people understand Matthew 25:40 as we live out our faith in a practical way. Our application for the Matthew 25 Grant money would enable us to have a greater significance and enhance our community outreach in one of our local Elementary Schools where many students live below the Federal poverty level.

(PART One) At Middlebranch Elementary School, in the school year of 2015-2016, there are 512 students enrolled in K-4th Grades. There is a very diverse dichotomy at this school because it is contrived of different neighborhoods. The District consists of Stark Metropolitan Housing, working class and very affluent neighborhoods all attending Middlebranch Elementary. During the 2015-16 school year, 101 students have been identified as either living in Stark Metropolitan Government Housing, doubled up, or homeless. In the current school year 45 of these students receive a bag of food which is given out the last two Fridays of each month. History has shown that students do not receive proper nourishment on the weekends. This “weekend food” program provides approximately \$3.00 of food per student. The backpack includes a variety of the following food items: ***Mac-Cheese, Granola Bars, Oatmeal, Chef boy-r-dee, Fruit Cups, Peanut Butter Crackers, Fruit Roll-ups, Fruit Snacks, Soups, Pudding cups and Goldfish Crackers.*** One of the reasons behind our application is so we can increase the number of students impacted to 100 as we meet the increased need at this one school and add an additional elementary school during the 2016-17 School year. These students need so many things we take for granted.

(PART Two) There is a new ministry expansion that we would like to provide to these students and parents during the upcoming 2016-17 school year. We would like to purchase back packs and school supplies for Back to School time in August. This way each of the kids will be able to start the school year with fresh supplies and not feel ashamed when they do not have what other students have.

Middlebranch Elementary is very active in the local Stark Metropolitan Housing District as a school. They are visible throughout the summers reading with the students and spending time with them at the Community Center. FBC would be able to come alongside the school and provide the school supplies as students gear up for the fall. We have found that being visible in their neighborhood promotes comradery and breaks down the barriers that exists between races and also between parent and teacher. When we spend time in their neighborhoods and play with their kids there, they look at us differently and see the love we have for them.

Our hope is to purchase back packs, pencils, crayons, markers, colored pencils, folders, paper, glue, glue sticks and rulers for at least 50 students. We want to be able to let the parents know this will be one less thing they will have to worry about for the fall of 2016. We will arrange for a partnership with the teachers to help pass out the bags at the Community Center in early August.

4. HOW THE FUNDS WILL BATTLE POVERTY AND ITS EFFECTS.

A quality education is one of the most important factors for breaking the cycle of poverty. We recognize that the education of a child and the power to transform that child is hindered significantly when basic other necessities are not provided. There are more single parent households in lower income levels than ever before and fewer of the individuals from poverty stricken communities place an emphasis on education. Parents often fall short in providing basic food, clothing and supplies for their children to be successful in the classroom. Studies show that children who suffer from malnutrition are more likely to start school late, learn less, and to drop out. We believe that as the basic physical needs of a child are met then the likelihood of that child to be successful in the classroom increases significantly. It is difficult for a child to concentrate on their studies if their stomachs are empty and their schools supplies lacking.

Therefore, there is no better moment to realize education's role in helping households escape poverty than today. All children deserve the chance to be successful and placing students on as much as a level playing field as possible is vital to their educational goals. Providing these supplies will encourage attendance, decrease drop-out rates, and improve their cognitive abilities. When a child education is enhanced, s/he is more likely to break the cycle of poverty for themselves and future generations.

We also hope that this partnership with the school will aid in mending the social economic and racial barriers that exist in our community.