

## 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." The donor's primary concern is to help ameliorate poverty. ABCUSA will distribute grants of up to \$5,000 semi-annually as long as the generosity of this donor continues. A panel will select recipients 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.

1. General Information:

|                         |  |                 |                               |
|-------------------------|--|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| Organization Name       | <b>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH</b>  |                 |                               |
| Affiliation with ABCUSA | <b>an American Baptist Church in the ABC Great Rivers Region, Area 2</b> |                 |                               |
| Address                 | <b>1701 Mound Road, Jacksonville, IL 62650</b>                           |                 |                               |
| Phone                   | <b>217-245-6119 or 217-370-7967</b>                                      | Federal Tax ID# | <b>37-0724097</b>             |
| Contact person          | <b>Kimberly Runkle</b>   | email           | <b>kimrunkle@fbcjaxil.org</b> |

2. Please submit with your application a copy of:

- Your mission statement
- Your most recent annual report or audited financial statement

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      **Undetermined – we plan to use all funds and/or products donated to The Personal Needs Pantry for the care of those who need our services – there are no overhead costs and there is no foreseeable end date.**

5. Amount being requested from the ABCUSA Matthew 25 Grant      **\$ 3,500.00**

6. Your other funding source(s)      **Solely donations from our congregation and community; there is no provision in our church budget for The Personal Needs Pantry.**

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) 

Date      **February 20, 2013**

Printed Name/Title      **Kimberly J. Runkle, Personal Needs Pantry Co-Coordinator**

**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 to:

Mission Resource Development  
American Baptist Churches USA  
P.O. Box 851  
Valley Forge, PA 19482-0851

Or emailed to: [Beth.Fogg@abc-usa.org](mailto:Beth.Fogg@abc-usa.org)



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## **Question 2a: Mission Statement**

In accordance with directives given by the Scriptures (Deuteronomy 15:11, Proverbs 28:27, Matthew 25:34-45, James 2:15-16, 1 Timothy 6:18 and 1 John 3:17-19) the mission of the Personal Needs Pantry is to provide families in our community who are struggling with job loss, financial instability or poverty a way to obtain basic necessities, allowing them to maintain personal dignity and a healthy home environment.

## **Question 2b: Financial Statement**

The Personal Needs Pantry is a ministry of First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Illinois that is supported completely by special offerings and product donations from our congregation and community. As such, we do not have a budget or audited financial statement for this project.

Since its inception in June 2012, the Personal Needs Pantry has received financial contributions of \$1,598.34 and product donations estimated to be approximately \$3,000 in value. The Personal Needs Pantry has a current on-hand cash balance of \$1,173.66; we anticipate spending 30-35% of that amount within the next 30 days.

We have also made use of the Staples® Rewards® program, utilizing \$468.25 in earned Rewards® to purchase toilet paper, paper towels and facial tissues at minimal to no cost.

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## Question 3: Proposed Use of Funding

First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Illinois, is requesting funding from the ABCUSA Matthew 25 Grant to provide support to our fledgling outreach ministry, The Personal Needs Pantry.


Jacksonville, Illinois and the surrounding area has been hurt by job loss over the last few years. Three large and several small manufacturing facilities have closed. A state facility closed in 2012, causing layoffs of nearly 300 workers. And budgetary issues at the state government level have made it more difficult for some families who are “on the bubble” to obtain benefits.

The Personal Needs Pantry at First Baptist Church was envisioned in the spring of 2012 and opened in June 2012. We developed this ministry as an answer to an unmet need in our community. There are certain items that are not serviced by the typical food pantry or covered by SNAP (food stamp) benefits. These items can be expensive but are necessary to maintain quality of life and a healthy home environment. These are things such as: toilet paper, shampoo, soap, razors, shaving cream, tooth/oral care products, facial tissues, bandages, laundry detergent, dish soap, diapers, feminine hygiene products and other personal care and/or household cleaning items.

Since the inception of the Personal Needs Pantry (8 months of data) we have served 87 households representing 196 individuals in our community. Of those, 59 were unique (non-repeat) visits. We accept referrals from our local Salvation Army, churches in our community, our local Food Pantry, and various non-profit agencies. We are also happy to serve anyone in need who simply asks for help. We request identifying information but do not have any income threshold limit for a household to receive help from the Pantry. It is estimated that a family of 4 would receive products valued approximately \$35.00-40.00 in a single visit. Smaller and larger households receive items proportionate to their need. It is our hope that a household would only need to visit the Pantry a time or two and that our ministry represents a “hand-up,” but we understand that each situation is different and don’t turn away repeat clients. The households we serve are diverse: multi-generational, blended families, single parents with children, single adults and even non-relatives caring for each other.

If granted this request, **all funds received will be used to procure personal care and household cleaning items such as those listed above.** As a church ministry, **there are no salary or overhead considerations** attached to this project; **all funds will be spent on products to distribute to the needy.** We are extremely prudent in the use of funds, working diligently to find the absolute lowest price and best value on each item, thereby stretching our donations as far as possible.

## Church hosts personal needs pantry

Published on Saturday, 12 January 2013 12:34 | Written by Nick Kovatch | 

First Baptist member Kim Runkle has undertaken an effort to create a "personal needs" pantry for those in need of personal hygiene items.

"The items that we chose were the items that food pantries don't carry or things that SNAP, or food stamps benefits, don't buy," says Runkle. "So, that would be paper products. Things like toilet paper, paper towels, tissues, soaps, shampoos, laundry detergent, any type of household cleaning supply or personal hygiene supply."

Runkle says it started after a conversation around Christmas time last year. She says the church adopts several families through a program called "The Giving Tree" and the congregation received a number of positive comments about the number of personal and household supplies that were given.

"It was something unusual," says Runkle. "It was something they couldn't get from any other type of agency and it was helpful to them. Out of that conversation we decided this, perhaps, was an ongoing need in the community and we spoke with Salvation Army. They agreed and we moved forward."

Runkle says the pantry opened in May. She says most recipients receive referrals to the pantry from The Salvation Army.

Runkle says church members supplied nearly all of the items in the pantry in the beginning. Since then, donations have been coming in from the community but the congregation is still very much involved.

Runkle says the pantry served 55 families last year.

# JOURNAL-COURIER

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2013

## Local church stocking a different kind of pantry

BY CODY BOZARTH

JOURNAL-COURIER

The members of First Baptist Church in Jacksonville have taken on a new grassroots project, providing another resource for needy families in the city.

Many churches in the community operate their own, internal food pantries, but First Baptist has started a "personal needs pantry," offering personal hygiene and cleaning items that people need on a daily basis.

Kim Runkle, a church mem-

ber who helps organize the pantry, said it was inspired by an annual service project the church has held during the Christmas holiday.

"It started as a conversation," Runkle said. "I cannot take credit for it. Someone else in our congregation organized 'The Giving Tree' which is a Christmas outreach. And, as part of that, we adopt families to purchase Christmas gifts and items for them,

**PANTRY,** see Page 8



JOURNAL-COURIER/CODY BOZARTH

**Kim Runkle, volunteer organizer, shows the small storage closet that has been stocked and transformed into the First Baptist Church Personal Needs Pantry.**

## PANTRY: Stocked with personal care, hygiene items

► *Continued from Page 1*  
including personal needs items.

"Many of those families were most appreciative of that," she added. "The clothes, the Christmas gifts, they were nice, but they were like, 'wow, this is something I can't obtain for myself on a regular basis because I'm on a severely limited income.' So it started as a conversation about those appreciative words."

Last year, members of the church approached Alan Bradish, a caseworker for the Salvation Army, to find out if the city had a need for such a pantry.

As someone who receives many inquiries for help, Bradish directs clients to the best places for assistance found in the city's many charitable services.

Bradish said he felt the church's effort compliments the many services in the city in responding to the needs of individuals.

"Whenever I find out there's something like what First Baptist is doing, I try to understand how it will benefit my clientele and better meet their needs," Bradish said. "It really helps with people moving into town, who are pretty strapped with a \$100 water deposit, two months of rent, and then they have to set up their own home and meet needs of hygiene and cleanliness on top of that. So something like this is very beneficial."

Runkle said the idea was approved nearly instantly by the church's leadership. The effort has also received some community support, such as through the Faith in

Action program last year.

Runkle said that, from the middle of June through the end of 2012, the pantry served 57 families, or about 250 people.

First Baptist members are regularly encouraged to donate to the effort and keep the church's community outreach effort going for a long time to come.

"Once in a while, if I'm getting really low on something, I'll put a note in the church bulletin," Runkle said. "Say something like 'I'm getting low on shaving cream, and you'd be surprised how many bring in whole bags of shaving cream. It very much is a grass-roots, internal outreach.'"

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