

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.

1. General Information:

Organization Name: Embrace It Africa, Inc.
Affiliation with ABCUSA: Oneida Baptist Church
Address: P.O. Box 25 St. Bonaventure, NY 14778
Phone: 315-382-6471
Federal Tax ID#: 27-2318813
Contact person: Zachary Rodriguez
Email: Zachary.rodriguez@gmail.com

2. Please submit with your application a copy of:

- Please find budget and mission statement attached.

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

- Please find project description attached.

4. Total cost of the project: \$5635.92

5. Amount being requested from the ABCUSA Matthew 25 Grant: \$2817.96

6. Your other funding source(s): Campus/church fundraisers, individual donations

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) Zachary Rodriguez Date 1/28/15

Printed Name/Title: Zachary Rodriguez, Chief Operating Officer Embrace It Africa, Inc.

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 beth.fogg@abc-usa.org. Only electronic submissions will be accepted.



ABCUSA MATTHEW 25 Grant Description

Embrace It Africa Mission Statement

Embrace It Africa, Inc. (“EIA”) works to create sustainable community development projects in the Rakai district of southern Uganda that serve as educational opportunities for university students in the United States.

Problem Statement

For the past seven years, EIA has worked to improve the lives of impoverished communities throughout the Rakai district. EIA initiatives address issues like poverty, access to education, and public health awareness.

Historically, the Rakai district is notorious for its prevalence of HIV/AIDS as it suffered the impact of the pandemic in Uganda, with prevalence climbing to as high as 18% in 1992. With increased awareness concerning the virus and its transmission, national HIV/AIDS rates began to decline for several years.

However, studies showed that prevalence started to rise in 2006, from 6.4% to 7.2% in 2011, causing the need for an increase in public health interventions. Today, in the Rakai district, HIV/AIDS prevalence still remains high, which only compounds the other effects that the pandemic has had on the area.

Those living with HIV/AIDS are often discriminated against and ostracized from their communities, thus left alone in illness and poverty. It is common for groups of people living with this illness to form cooperatives that attempt to foster the fellowship and social responsibility necessary for group members to pursue and attain sustainable livelihoods.

EIA works closely with a small cooperative, about 30-35 members, to provide relief through food and personal hygiene products, HIV/AIDS counseling programs, and Christian worship services. This cooperative is known as the Rakai Wellness Organization (“RWO”).

Project Description

EIA intends to use funding from the ABCUSA MATTHEW 25 grant to construct a community center for men and women living with HIV/AIDS in the Rakai district of southern Uganda.

The proposed community center will attempt to account for and house many services denied to members of RWO. The center will include a 15ftx12ft room for administrative activities and storage, 15ftx16ft room for three beds with mosquito nets, and a 40ftx28ft main hall, which will allow groups to hold worship services, conduct counseling sessions, and host any other event that intends on drawing a large crowd. Most especially, a community center will allow for the space to house projects or meetings that are normally conducted outdoors, under a tarp.

Simply having the space to take care of one another or the space to explore your personal struggles or the space to worship God as one’s health permits is often something we take for granted in the United States.

EIA works closely with several churches and local organizations to develop sustainable economic projects that will create income for the cooperative. Profits from these projects then go toward the physical and emotional care of the group members and their families. Relationships between EIA and local churches will also make it simple to bring a pastor and worship singers to the community center, every Sunday.

This community center would be a tremendous gift for the members of RWO who are struggling to survive in the Rakai district. Directly keeping with the grant's mission, funding from the ABCUSA would truly be a meaningful service to a community that is widely considered "the least of these".

Embrace It Africa HIV/AIDS Community Center

Item	Quantity	Cost in UGX	Cost in USD
Bricks	10,000	1,400,000	518.52
Sand	9 trips	346,500	128.33
Cement	32 bags	882,000	326.67
Aggregates	4 trips	420,000	155.56
Roofing Timber	-	420,000	155.56
Iron Sheets	84	1,654,800	612.89
Doors	4	525,000	194.44
Windows	7	1,050,000	388.89
Contractor	-	910,000	337.04
Total Cost		7,608,300	\$ 2,817.89