

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_ The South Church \_\_\_\_\_  
Affiliation with ABCUSA \_\_\_\_\_ Member of ABC Metro Chicago Region \_\_\_\_\_  
Address 501 S. Emerson St. Mount Prospect IL 60056 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone 847-253-0501 \_\_\_\_\_ Federal Tax ID# 36-2337887 \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact person Pastor Rick Kesler \_\_\_\_\_ email [rkesler@thesouthchurch.com](mailto:rkesler@thesouthchurch.com) \_\_\_\_\_

2. Please submit with your application a copy of:

- Your mission statement
- A financial statement FOR THIS MINISTRY. This can be a budget or projected budget, and should not exceed 2 pages. Church budgets are not acceptable.

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 \_\_\_\_\_ \$2000.00 \_\_\_\_\_

5. Amount being requested from the ABCUSA Matthew 25 Grant \_\_\_\_\_ \$1700.00 \_\_\_\_\_

6. Your other funding source(s) Some church funds, about \$300.00 \_\_\_\_\_

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) \_\_\_\_\_ Rick Kesler \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ February 27, 2015

Printed Name/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Pastor Rick Kesler \_\_\_\_\_

**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 [Tina.Turner@abc-usa.org](mailto:Tina.Turner@abc-usa.org). Only electronic submissions will be accepted.



Matthew 25 Grant Application  
The South Church  
Rick Kesler [rkelser@thesouthchurch.com](mailto:rkelser@thesouthchurch.com)

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

For six years now I have managed the Plant a Row for the Hungry Garden Project. Our goal is to plant a vegetable garden each May and to weed, water, and harvest the garden until sometime in the fall. Our garden yields organic vegetables. We have a state of the art eco-friendly watering system that collects rain water and distributes it with little waste via solar-powered pumps. The garden consists of twenty rows on a plot that is roughly 50 by 60 feet, or nearly 3000 square feet. It is on the church property. The produce is donated to two local food pantries.

For years we have accomplished these tasks with volunteer labor from members of the church, neighbors who are interested in helping, and from girl scouts who meet in our church building. We have received some donations to help with garden costs but have had to dig into our own pockets to cover some expenses. The church can only budget a few hundred dollars for this project, at most. Grant money would go a long way toward helping us maintain this incredible local mission project.

We need funds to buy seeds and plants, maintain the soil, and make repairs and improvements to the watering system. If we had any extra funds we would like to try two experiments. If we could construct some raised beds then more of our elderly members could participate in the project. We are looking at various ways to do this, from using bales of hay to constructing elevated boxes. We also have an excellent southern exposure, which receives lots of sun, where we would like to try some cold frame gardening, to extend our growing season and provide vegetables to the food pantries for a longer period of time.

The vegetables are usually harvested on Wednesday and Sunday evenings. Some crops require more frequent harvesting at certain times. The food is then distributed the next day to two local food pantries, both located in our Village of Mount Prospect. These two pantries serve low income members of the community.

One is called Northwest Compass, Inc. (Previously known as CEDA.) They provide job counseling, assist families in need of housing, and provide other counseling and coaching services. They operate a food pantry and accept as many of our vegetables as we can give them. They are located at 1300 W. Northwest Highway, Mount Prospect, IL 60056. Phone: 877-392-2344

We also give vegetables to the government offices of The Village of Mount Prospect, Human Services Department. They also have a food pantry. The village also distributes some of the produce to a senior housing facility for low-income seniors. Their address is Village Hall, 50 S. Emerson St., Mount Prospect, IL 60056. Phone: 847-870-5680.

We are often told that our vegetables may be the only fresh food many of these families see each week. Our produce is almost certainly the only organically grown food many of them can afford to eat.

Our yearly yield varies due to weather, bugs, and how much volunteer labor we can muster. We average around 1600 pounds of vegetables per season. Last year we harvested over 2400 pounds of tomatoes, cabbage, zucchini, yellow squash, peppers, onions, cucumbers, bush beans, and herbs. And that's how we strive to help people battling the effect poverty has on a person's ability to acquire healthy food.

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*Mission Statement:*

The South Church strives to embody the love demonstrated by the life, ministry, and death of Jesus. We work to make our world more just. We seek ways to provide shelter, food, and clothing for those in need. We preach and teach inclusivity, inviting all to hear the truth that all may be made free.

*Financial statement:*

Recurring costs for the Plant a Row for the Hungry Garden Project

Plants and Seeds	\$100.00
Yearly Manure	\$200.00
Cost for tilling	\$150.00
Water system upkeep	\$300.00

Projected costs for improvements:

Build cold frames	
Materials and Carpentry help	\$750.00
Experiment with raised beds	\$500.00

Total costs:	\$2000.00
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(Signed)  Date February 27, 2015

Printed Name/Title Pastor Rick Kesler

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