

ABCUSA MATTHEW 25 GRANT APPLICATION - 2019



A generous donor has given a sum of money through American Baptist Churches USA Office of the General Secretary, 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. Awards will be granted only to an internal ministry of an American Baptist church which provides direct benefit to children. The church must be in good standing with their Region. This is a change from previous grant cycles. We will no longer award grants to organizations affiliated with churches such as a cooperative group that includes non-ABC churches; applications must be submitted by an ABC church for work being done directly by that church.

Only one application per church will be considered within a 24-month period.

Grant funds may not be used to fund staff positions or stipends, rainy day funds, church benevolent funds, regular ongoing church operating expenses (i.e. utilities, insurance), repairs, or for capital improvements or repairs to facilities. Grant awards will be sent to the ABC church that is applying for the grant; checks will not be made payable to an individual or ministry.

Tab through the document to fill in all the fields below.

1. Applicant Information

Name of Church: First Baptist Church

Mailing Address: 1600 Salem Road, Mt. Vernon, IL 62864

Phone: 618-242-2877

Federal Tax ID#: 37-6006960

Name of Region: Great Rivers

Contact person (person completing this form): Gail Farnham

Email of contact person: gailfar43@gmail.com

Does your church contribute to United Mission? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Have you previously been awarded an ABCUSA Matthew 25 Grant? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If so, have you submitted your report on the use of the funds? ☒ Yes ☐ No

2. What ministry or group will use these funds?

Brown Bag Friday Program

3. Specifically, how do you plan to use the requested funds?

Please include a very brief and specific statement on how the money will be spent. For example: to purchase school supplies for 100 elementary school children; to provide summer camp scholarships for 10 children from low-income families; purchase diapers and wipes for single mothers. You are encouraged to attach a longer description (no more than one page) of the ministry or project.

The funds will help us provide food for elementary children-in-need for weekends.

4. How will the funds assist individuals battling poverty and its effects? What impact do you hope to make on the target group or community?

Our program targets elementary children who do not receive enough nourishment on weekends. Teachers affirm that this nourishment does make a difference performance of children upon return to the classroom following the weekends.

5. Total cost of the project: \$12,698 per school year

6. Amount being requested from the ABCUSA Matthew 25 Grant: \$3000

7. List other funding source(s): A church, five groups/organizations and six individuals outside our church family. In addition, two groups also provided food product for the bags.
8. Please submit along 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.

By submitting this application on behalf of (church name) First Baptist Church of Mt. Vernon, IL, I certify that all the information submitted with this application is true and correct. We agree to use and/or disburse any grant funds awarded for the sole purpose as described within this application. 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 (name of person): Gail Farnham (your name typed here is your electronic signature)
Date: 8/9/2019

Please note:

- Incomplete applications will not be considered.
- Recipients agree to share their stories via the ABCUSA website.
- Application deadline September 1. Grants will be distributed no later than October 15.
- Only electronic submissions of completed applications and supporting documents will be accepted. Completed applications should be sent via email to Tina.Turner@abc-usa.org.
- Please review the instructions that follow and initial at the bottom to indicate you have read this information.

Instructions and information for completing the 2018 ABCUSA Matthew 25 Grant application

1. General information

Awards will be granted only to internal ministries of an American Baptist Church in good standing with their Region which provides direct services to or for children. This is a change from previous grant cycles. We will no longer award grants to organizations affiliated with churches such as a cooperative group that include non-ABC churches or ministries where a church partners with other organizations; applications must be submitted by an ABC church in good standing.

When determining Grants awards, the following criteria will be considered: whether the church is in good standing within the region; whether the church contributes to United Mission; number of and amounts of previous Matthew 25 Grants received; sustainability of ministry beyond Matthew 25 Grant funding; description of ministry and needs addressed by funding; and the detailed budget submitted along with this application.

Checks will be made payable to the ABC church. Checks will not be made to an individual or ministry.

3. Specifically, how do you plan to use the requested funds?

Briefly describe what will be purchased with the grant funds if awarded. Be specific with the expected use of these funds. This should be a very short and specific statement of no more than a few sentences on where the money will be spent, do not include a lengthy narrative of the ministry project here. You are encouraged to provide a longer description of the ministry but this additional information must be limited to no more than one page in length and submitted as an attachment.

Please note that grant funds may not be used to: fund staff positions, salaries or stipends; for capital improvements to church facilities; to pay for regular ongoing church operating expenses (i.e. utilities, insurance) or repairs; or to maintain a "Rainy Day" or church benevolent fund.

4. How will the funds assist individuals battling poverty and its effects?

Describe how the Matthew 25 grant funds will benefit those less fortunate. What effect and impact do you hope to have on individuals battling poverty or the community you are hoping to serve?

5. Total cost of the project

List the total amount of this project or ministry need.

6. Amount being requested from the ABCUSA Matthew 25 Grant.

One application per church or region will be considered per 24 month period. The maximum amount awarded is \$5,000. If you have previously been a Matthew 25 grant recipient, you must have submitted a follow-up report in order to be eligible to reapply.

7. Your other funding source(s).

List all other sources providing funding for this ministry.

8. Please submit with your application a copy of:

- Your mission statement

Include as an attachment a copy of the church or ministry's mission statement.

- A financial statement for this ministry

This budget or projected budget must include itemized expenses and income for the ministry applying for the Matthew 25 grant funding. Church budgets are not acceptable.

Other information and requirements

By submitting an application,

- You certify that all information submitted is true and correct;
- You agree to use and/or disburse any awarded grant funds for the sole purpose as described within this application;
- You agree to supply a one page report on the use of funds and a photo/photos within six months of receipt of the grant;
- You give ABCUSA permission to share your story via the ABCUSA website or newsletter;
- You give ABCUSA permission to use the photograph(s) submitted for printing and/or posting.

I have reviewed the instructions provided. (initial here) gf

Your typed name and initials are your electronic signatures on this document.

The First Baptist Church of Mt. Vernon is applying for Matthew 25 Grant Funds in the amount of \$3,000. However, any amount awarded to us will be greatly appreciated. Receipt of the monies will help us continue our weekly Brown Bag food program to 265 children in three elementary schools. The funds will be used solely for the purchase of the food items placed in each bag.

Our Brown Bag food program helps define who we are as a church body, allowing us to demonstrate **our Mission Statement, which is "Loving God – Serving Others," in a tangible way.** When we began the program in 2008, our active congregation numbered about 70. The cost of food for the program that year totaled about \$3700. As the years have passed, our average attendance has dwindled to about 20 per week. At the same time, the number of children needing the benefit of food for the weekends has continually increased. Even as recently as five years ago, the cost of the program for the school year was about \$7200.

The program is funded over and above the church's operating budget. As the number of children climbed to an all time high in 2018-2019, we reached out to find funding from other outside sources. We were blessed with several one-time donations from individuals and groups plus continued support within our congregation. This past year we received donations again from a local Lutheran church, one bank and two sororities. First-time donations came from seven individuals (partly as an outreach following our 150th anniversary) and a grant from a local civic club. In addition, we received the donation from your staff at Christmas time. We may qualify for a couple of grants this upcoming school year, however, if the number stays the same as we ended with last year, we will again rely on outside funding to meet the needs of these children. Teachers and school social workers continue to report that the performance of the children receiving these bags on the weekends is improved upon return to school on Monday. Throughout the previous 11 years, the number of children needing bags has never decreased. To date, God has helped us fund and provide 38, 422 bags at a total cost of \$80, 692.

For the school year of 2019-2020, we are projecting 265 bags at a cost of \$2.21 per bag, for 24 weekends. This will result in an estimated cost of \$14, 056. Each bag includes protein, fruit, dairy and snack items. The cost of the bags and the treats we include for Halloween, Christmas and Easter are borne by individuals within our congregation.

We were humbled when we received the \$500 donation at Christmastime last year from your staff, as we weren't eligible to apply for a grant in 2018. It certainly takes more than our small congregation to feed these children and God continues to touch the hearts of others. We appreciate your consideration of a grant for us and will be thankful for any amount we receive.

/s/ Doug Farnham, Brown Bag Coordinator

First Baptist Church, 1600 Salem Road, Mt. Vernon, IL 62864