

ABCUSA MATTHEW 25 GRANT APPLICATION - 2018



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 ministries of an American Baptist church 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, 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: 505 N. C Street Fremont, Nebraska 68025

Phone: 402-721-1265

Federal Tax ID#: 4-6030735

Name of Region: Nebraska

Contact person (person completing this form): Pastor Richard Crooks

Email of contact person: richard@fremontfbc.org

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?

The funds will go to the First Baptist/Washington School Poverty Hunger/Enrichment Partnership Ministry. The church directs this project jointly through the mission/outreach branch of our Deacons and the Board of Christian Education. The Deacons mainly oversees the food portion of the offsite ministry (at Washington), while the Board of Christian Ed handles the onsite ministries (at First Baptist) and the enrichment activities. This began as a small ministry, but we are looking to expand it as in response to suggestions from the school and from within the church body.

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.

We are targeting assisting a specific poverty population in partnership with their neighborhood elementary school, using a multi-faceted approach:

--To purchase supplementary food staples that are culturally sensitive for distribution to approximately 50 families monthly;

--To provide meals for approximately 60+ children at our church and some of their parents in conjunction with the Wednesday children's outreach programming.

--To provide additional educational materials for the children at school, such as books for classroom or for children to take home.

--To provide snacks for a targeted group of children during testing to help them be alert and do well (approximately 90 children).
--To provide special opportunities for these children of poverty in the form of daycamp activities at school or camp and summer church camp scholarships for the children and/or their families. Starting daycamp numbers have been about 25, but we expect growth as the project is better known in the school.
--To provide bus transportation to the various events, regardless of location, for those who need it.

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?
The funds accomplish several things. First, by coming alongside the local school, we are helping make sure the children have a chance at a good education by assisting with their basic needs, for a hungry child is unable to focus on learning. Our funds supplement the free and reduced lunches by helping cover food needs in the homes. Secondly by providing a place where children (and parents who choose to) can have a hot meal once a week during school, it means that is one less meal the parents have to provide at home out of their meagre funds. Thirdly the educational materials and opportunities for enrichment experiences mean that the children will have a chance at a better and more rounded education, which will then better enable them to later be able to get training and good jobs that could help lift them out of poverty.

It is our hope that as our work becomes known, inspire our people to deeper involvement while setting an example for other churches who might adopt other schools with needs. We are using this as a vehicle to build a positive reputation of our church in town, and especially to build healthy relationships with the recipients that may enable us to have other opportunities to engage with and assist them. We are discovering these things have created a positive relationship, and believe it may be an important step toward establishing a Spanish speaking service within our church to fill a gap we are discovering exists in our community.

5. Total cost of the project: estimated at \$14,000 per year
6. Amount being requested from the ABCUSA Matthew 25 Grant: \$5,000
7. List other funding source(s): Our church would provide about 65% of the project funding through private donations by individuals in the church and from the church budget as the expansion begins. In time we maybe able partner with other organizations for funding, or increase our own funding as people respond to the need and see the value of the partnership.
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 of Fremont, Nebraska, 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): Rev. Richard Crooks (your name typed here is your electronic signature)

Date: 8/30/2018

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 ministries of an American Baptist church 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 include non-ABC churches; 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 budget submitted along with this application.

Checks will be made payable to the 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 on where the money will be spent, do not include a lengthy narrative of the ministry project.

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 and salaries, 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 fund" 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 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) rdc

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

First Baptist/Washington School Poverty Hunger/Enrichment Partnership Ministry

Our church is seeking to significantly expand a multi-faceted ministry project aimed at helping families in poverty. The project targets a specific portion of our community's poverty families, including a number of immigrant families from Latin America who are trying to make new lives here in Fremont. A neighborhood elementary school near the church is the primary agency with whom we are partnering to identify needy families and address needs in tangible ways. This school includes many of our immigrant children as well as other neighborhood children, but some *90% of the children at this school receive free and reduced lunches*. As we have developed that partnership, we have developed ministries in response to needs expressed by school administrators and by those in our church who observe children as they participate in the various ministries we provide. Below are brief descriptions of the specific parts of the project:

- 1) Because some of the food assistance in town is provided through agencies of which many of the Spanish speaking community are fearful or untrusting, and since that food is not culturally sensitive, we provide some monthly staples that fit the needs and desires of the people being served, delivering them to the school for distribution. The selection of products is guided by school officials who are in direct contact with the families. The goal of the help is to supplement the family's food supply at the end of the month.
- 2) During the school's standardized testing, we seek to provide healthy snacks for the children to help their performance and attentiveness. We began with a specific group of children, but are working to expand this assistance and to adapt to the changes in the school's testing program.
- 3) Because of limited opportunities for children in poverty, we initiated a new ministry idea this past summer by partnering with the school, the local Art Association and the Chess Club to provide a free Saturday day camp, with our church organizing the event and providing a nourishing hot lunch. (The other agencies we involved cover their own expenses for that event, but that may vary.)
- 4) School staff indicated educational supplies are sometimes needed. We plan to help purchase children's books for classroom use or to take home, just as other children who buy books at school book fairs do. While learning English, reading material is a critical educational tool.
- 5) Wednesday night programming at the church includes children's Bible studies and fun activities, and begins each week with a hot meal. A few parents also join us for the meal. We have also hosted a Spanish speaking Bible study to help us build healthy bridges with the Spanish speaking community, and include those families with their children in the meals and programming if they desire to participate.
- 6) We are seeking to provide opportunities at camp including: a) busing the children to our region camp for a day-camp style VBS; b) providing full scholarships for needy children we encounter through this project to attend church camp; c) providing a full scholarship to a selected family each year to attend family camp.

Note: For clarity, not all the families involved are Spanish speaking, and our program activities are available for others who might choose to attend, because we do not want to create more isolation for poverty families. The school has expressed great appreciation for the partnership, and has been an outstanding help in identifying families in need.

ESTIMATED BUDGET FOR
First Baptist/Washington School Poverty Hunger/Enrichment Partnership Ministry
FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2018/2019—SUMMER 2019*

EXPENSES

Wednesday evening meals/program costs...\$160/meal for 36 weeks:	\$5,760
Monthly Staples provision...approximately \$260/month for 9 months:	\$2,340
Educational Supplies (including testing snacks)	\$1,700
Event Transportation Costs	\$ 700
Camping opportunities...Enrichment Daycamps (at school and at our regional camping facilities) and Church Camp Scholarship for children/families	<u>\$3,500</u>
Estimated Total Annual Costs	<u>\$14,000</u>

INCOME

Private direct donations (outside church budget funding)	\$2,500
Remainder of OGHS grant for staples/Wednesday meals	\$1,500
Church Budget/donated support (donations through church)	<u>\$5,000</u>
Estimated Local Income Total	\$8,790
Matthew 25 Grant sought	<u>\$5,000</u>
	<u>\$14,000</u>

*(Our programming budget for this ministry/grant application is from Sept. 2018 through Summer, 2019. The program will begin in September using funds gathered locally. Whenever the grant would arrive, it would supplement the funding to complete the project for the current school year and upcoming summer. Any costs above estimated budget will be funded by church or private donations. We try to expend grant monies in/ measured allocation over the course of the project to ensure sustainability and dependability, rather than produce a one time “flash in the pan” situation. In the unlikely event that there is grant money left over at the end of the school year, that money would be used to fund additional children or families to attend camp and/or to fund an additional summer daycamp.)

MISSION STATEMENT OF FIRST BAPTIST, FREMONT, NEBRASKA

To share the love of God, to study and grow together in the Word of God and to serve and support the family of God.

MISSION STATEMENT FOR

First Baptist/Washington School Poverty Hunger/Enrichment Partnership Ministry

With the leadership of our current pastor, First Baptist Church of Fremont is developing an expanding vision of our role in the community in which we worship and serve. We are seeking to:

- 1) --be an influence for good and to become known as a church that is a blessing to our community.
- 2) --be a church that has positive and tangible impact with people outside our walls and outside our congregation.
- 3) --demonstrate the love of Christ through ministering to the needs of others to the extent that we are able to do so, whether or not the people are part of our congregation.
- 4) --show Christ's love in ways that sow seeds of hope, trusting that God will produce a harvest in their lives and in our church as a result.
- 5) --build positive relationships with individuals and organizations outside the church as a vehicle to share Christ's love in tangible ways and to build partnerships that can have a wider influence than our church alone.
- 6) --revitalize and reshape the ministry focus of our church as part of our turnaround process toward future growth.

The mission objectives of this ministry, under those vision guidelines, are to develop an ongoing partnership with Washington School to identify and connect with families in need in order to:

- 1) Communicate in a tangible way that God and the church care about these individuals marginalized in our community because of income or language/cultural barriers.
- 2) To help alleviate some of the stresses and heartache of poverty by assisting with dependable needed food supplies and to provide opportunities for the children to have joyful and educational enrichment experiences.
- 3) To aid the school and families with some educational supplies (coordinated with school personnel) in order to help these poverty children have an opportunity for a good education and a better life.
- 4) To engage our congregation in ministry experiences, to build strong relationships with the staff and families of the school, and to impact that segment of our community in a way that engaged our congregation in ministry opportunities, some of which may lead to individuals from that population to connect with our church in other ways.
- 5) To set an example that may inspire other congregations to join in making a difference in the poverty areas of our community.
- 6) To do these ministries in such a way that we represent the message of the Gospel of Christ effectively and honorably to our community.