

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 described above. The applying ministry must be directly affiliated with American Baptist Churches USA to be eligible to submit an application. Only one application per church or region will be considered within a 24-month period. Grant funds may not be used to fund staff positions, rainy day fund, church benevolent fund, or for capital improvements to facilities. Grant awards will be sent to the ABC church or Region 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 or Region: First Baptist Church

Mailing Address: 114 North Main Street, Wallingford, CT 06492

Phone: 203-269-4796

Federal Tax ID#: 060899204

Region: CT

Contact person (person completing this form): John Powers

Email: john@drmissionteam.org

Affiliation with American Baptist Churches USA:

☒ Church ☐ Region ☐ Other, please explain

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?

First Baptist Wallingford's "Dominican Republic Mission Team"

If this application is being submitted on behalf of another organization or ministry, you agree to be the fiscal agent for any grant funds awarded. (please initial)

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 to single mothers. You are encouraged to attach a longer description (no more than one page) of the ministry or project. Our objective is to install solar panels at the Joe Hartman School in the barrio Kilometer 6, La Romana, Dominican Republic. This renewable and reliable energy source will greatly enhance the educational opportunities for hundreds of young students working hard to escape deep poverty (see question 4 answer for more details).

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 Dominican Republic Mission Team, a ministry of First Baptist Church of Wallingford, CT, has been serving the very poor since February 1990. Over the past 27 years, this ministry has been blessed to grow in size and scope – what started with 11 volunteer missionaries on the 1990 trip has become 152 people on the 2017 team that just returned in July. In addition, many mission teams have developed from our core group, and we anticipate that over 300 local volunteers will travel to La Romana, DR, this year based off of that initial FBC Wallingford team.

Over the past 27 years, the DR Mission Team has been able to help build the Good Samaritan Hospital in La Romana, establish a biosand water filter program in the homes of the very poor, rebuild homes and entire villages, construct churches and schools, evangelism, providing educational programs and training, establishing a sustainable food garden including solar powered irrigation, and delivering food door to door in the bateyes to the very hungry families.

Through the help of Matthew 25 grant and many other supporters, one of the main projects we have undertaken in the last five years included the total transformation of the poorest of all of the bateyes – Batey 50. The DR Mission Team has been able to facilitate the rebuilding of all shacks into sturdy and safe cinderblock homes, a church and school have been built, and a sustainable food garden has been built. Over the past two summers, we began the next phase, through partnership with the Good Samaritan Hospital, Maranatha Mission, and the Haitian Missionary Baptist Church, by adding solar panels to some public areas in this village as well as some homes, as well as a plan to bring solar power and even internet to the small school. These solar panels will bring electricity to a village that has never had this luxury – this will mean lights at night when it is dark, as well as allowing residents to charge cell phones, power computers, and radios and television, and provide wifi that will be able to connect the people to the rest of the world. Currently, through previous grants and work in Batey 50, the DR Mission Team has also installed five solar panels on the roof of the church which powers the irrigation pump for the garden and provides some lighting for the church building (the first electric lights ever in this village).

Now that we have successfully implemented this project in Batey 50, we are turning our attention to a major education project in a barrio known as Kilometer 6. Located just off the main road in the city of La Romana, Kilometer 6 is a very poor barrio made up of first and second generation Haitians looking for a better life in the DR. In this village, our local friends and partners have established the Berraca Church, which has grown from a very small gathering each week to several hundred very excited and involved members. Several years ago, the church established a school (known as the Joe Hartman School and named for the man who purchased the land and donated it to the church for the school) to help educate the children of this village, many of whom are children of illegal immigrants in the DR and not allowed to attend public school. Both the church and school are the vision of the late Rev. Jean Luc Phanord and his wife Pastor Elza Phanord.

The school was built by our team and several other volunteer groups, and now has 250 students grades K-5. Our DR Mission Team also facilitates the sponsorship of every one of these children to afford to attend to this school (purchase uniforms, buy books, etc). We also are working on sponsoring each teacher, who works sacrificial to educate these beautiful children.

One area of great concern is that we have determined that the vast majority of children come to school each morning without having had breakfast and very hungry. Certainly this is detrimental to their ability to learn, and we are in the process of building a kitchen/cafeteria to feed the children each day and also provide learning opportunities related to cooking, food service, etc. This past July, our volunteers helped pour the concrete roof of the cafeteria, filled the floor of the building, and also began stucco work in the kitchen area. The completion of this project is near!

The school is thriving educationally and spiritually, and it is a beacon of hope for hundreds of families trying to help their children escape desperate poverty. However, the school is located in a very poor area that has unreliable power systems. This means that electricity is often out while school is in session and for any potential after-school or evening events/programs. Our goal is to use renewable solar energy to power the school and the cafeteria with an inexpensive and reliable power source. This will be crucial as we work to place more computers and internet in the school, and also for the kitchen to be functional with stoves, and more. The plan is to hire local contractors to work with our DR Mission Team volunteers and local partners for the installation and construction related to this solar

power project.

This project has utilized engineers and project coordinators here in the United States and in the Dominican Republic to establish the optimal and most cost-effective solution to the power needs of the school. This power supply at the Joe Hartman School, through solar generated energy and battery banks, will provide electricity for lighting, ceiling fans, computer center power, fans for the computer center, refrigeration in the cafeteria, freezer, water cooling systems, a sound system, water pumps, and more.

5. Total cost of the project: \$30,000
6. Amount being requested from the ABCUSA Matthew 25 Grant: \$5,000
7. List other funding source(s): Several other churches, mission teams, foundations, and individuals are being solicited for support of this solar project for the Joe Hartman School. In addition, our experts and local partners in the Dominican Republic are pursuing subsidies from the DR government for the solar panels.
8. Solar Panel Project Budget for Joe Hartman School - 2017-2018
\$30,000 Needed for Joe Hartman School Solar Panel Project
(soliciting funding from Matthew 25 grant, other foundations, individual and church donations, fundraising, Dominican Republic government programs and funding)

Solar Panels, Battery Bank, Solar Generator \$21,000.
FVWATT, 120/240 VAC, 60 HZ, 60 HZ for 24 hour power, producing 1,500 KWh

Related equipment \$9,000
- pvc piping
- electrical wire and clamps
- on-site experts, engineers, and translators
- transportation
- maintenance

9. 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/region/organization name) , 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): John Powers (your name typed here is your electronic signature)

Date: August 4, 2017

Please note:



Dominican Republic Mission Team

A Ministry of The First Baptist Church

*146 Church Street
Wallingford, CT 06492*

*203-626-2239
www.drmissionteam.org
info@drmissionteam.org*

Mission Statement

The mission of the Dominican Republic Mission Team is to bring hope, healing, and help to the very poor in bateyes and barrios of La Romana, Dominican Republic. This includes raising awareness and funding, providing the means for the very poor to improve their living conditions, and leading large annual mission trips to work directly with the very poor in La Romana.

More information may be found at drmissionteam.org.



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Projected Budget 2018 Trips Statement - 150 volunteers

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$249,900

(airfare, room and board, transportation, translators, mission projects, special events, etc.)

TOTAL INCOME: \$254,000

(trip fees per volunteer, fundraising, donations, sponsorships, grants, multi-church support, etc.)