

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 First Baptist Church of Holdrege
Affiliation with ABCUSA First Baptist Church of Holdrege
Address PO Box 588, Holdrege, NE 68949
Phone (308) 995-2228 Federal Tax ID# 47-0658531
Contact person Rev. Darren Stroh email pastordarren@fbcholdrege.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 projected annual costs for 2015: \$13,500

5. Amount being requested from the ABCUSA Matthew 25 Grant \$5000

6. Your other funding source(s) local congregant generosity

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) Rev. Darren Stroh Date 8/17/15

Printed Name/Title Rev. Darren Stroh, Pastor

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.



The Mission Statement of the Rainy Day Ministry of First Baptist Church of Holdrege:

Our aim is to be the hands and feet of Christ in assisting those who find themselves in a financial crisis. We aim to assist in a way that accomplishes the following:

- To meet the immediate need as best as we can,
- To assist in avoiding the repeat of the crisis through education and mentoring
- To assist in a way that promotes human dignity and Christ's loving, gracious manner
- To assist in a way that is fiscally responsible.

Financial Statement

This request is tricky in that we have promised confidentiality to date for those who have received funding. Here is what we can disclose other than what is included in the response to Item #3 in the application.

In January 2015, we began the year with \$9664.81. We have assisted 15 families with \$8414.44 in total assistance. This averages out to slightly over \$560 per family unit. We aim to limit our assistance to \$500 per family per year. However, the Rainy Day Committee can exceed that in their award if they feel the actual need is greater than the target limit. Over the first 8 months of 2015, we have received requests for well more than triple of what was distributed. Due to financial counseling efforts and other resource referrals, many of those requests were met either by better financial management or by other sources of assistance. We aim to continue this effort in this manner.

To the Trustees of the Matthew 25 Grant,

Within the ministries of First Baptist Church of Holdrege is the Rainy Day Ministry. The purpose of this ministry is to help people within both our congregation and our community who find themselves in a financial struggle. The monies raised for this are separate from the church budget and are used solely for those in financial crisis. Most of the funds for this have come from those in the church family to date. However, this year has taken a larger toll than what we have to give.

The goal of this ministry is not only to alleviate a financial crisis, but to also help avoid future ones as well. A process of interview and budget work is done prior to any financial assistance with the pastor or one of the Rainy Day Ministry Committee members. In this process, we seek to help those in need find other resources that may be available to them such as governmental assistance and other locally-administered charity funds such as the local chapter of the Red Cross and Salvation Army. Unfortunately, their resources are being tapped as well. We also assist in budget planning, offering the Managing Our Finances God's Way curriculum from Zondervan Press free of charge to all who wish to participate at least once per year. We strongly recommend it to all who receive assistance. The funds requested in this application do not include the cost of this curriculum. We seek only to use the money to directly assist those in financial crisis. When all the information is collected, the members of the Rainy Day Committee (three appointed deacons) review the information and prayerfully consider what might God be asking of us at this time. Our policy has been to award no more than \$500 per family unit per year. We also strive to not give the money directly to those in need, but to the creditor as to avoid the temptation to spend it elsewhere for other reasons. With costs and needs growing, such a limitation is becoming problematic as \$500 doesn't always cover the need to get someone back on their feet or at least in a position to see a point in which there is hope.

We started the year out with an unprecedented amount of \$9664.81. Over the course of the last 8 months, we have carefully and prayerfully helped over 15 families in our community at an expense of \$8414.44. These funds were used so far this year for needs such as the following: to keep a family from being evicted due to a loss and transition to a new job, to assist in car repairs so that the breadwinner in the family can continue to make it to work, to provide gas money for a mother to visit her hospitalized daughter in a specialized hospital 45 minutes away, to pay the first month's rent in a halfway house for a new believer who just recently completed detox, so that he could find a job and stabilize, and to help a family with expenses as they dealt with the long term hospitalization of the mom's sister and ultimately her death. We also assisted an elderly couple in their utility bills as he had just had surgery and air conditioning was a medical requirement in 100+ degree weather as well as other similar needs.

A young lady in our church also wishes to use some of these funds to assist single mothers in our community with a "get started" diaper bag of diapers, pacifiers, and other infant supplies. The Rainy Day Ministry would supply her with the funds for a couple of bags at a time and when they have been distributed, she would need to apply to them for the purchase of two more.

We are requesting the full \$5000 amount as we look forward to the winter months ahead, but will be grateful for any help you might be able to provide. We anticipate such bills specifically for the working poor in our community including but not limited to high winter utility bills, car repairs, rent assistance, and the like. Although we treat the Rainy Day Ministry with the utmost of confidentiality, we recognize your need for accountability with the funds as well. With each award of assistance, we will gain the recipient's permission to tell their story to the Matthew 25 Grant trustees. If there is any money left over at the end of the 6 months of the award, we will gladly return it.

Thank you for your consideration. If there is any additional information that we might be able to provide in helping in this decision, please do not hesitate to ask.

Respectfully in Christ,

Rev. Dawn Stora