

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. Grant awards will be sent to the ABC church or organization, checks will not be made payable to an individual or ministry.

1. General Information:

Organization Name Beginnings Preschool and Child Care
Affiliation with ABCUSA (Check made payable to) First Baptist Church of Indianapolis
Mailing Address 8600 North College Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 46240
Phone 317-574-6454 Federal Tax ID# 35-1065808
Contact person Carol Mann email cmann@fbcindy.org

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 \$4972

5. Amount being requested from the ABCUSA Matthew 25 Grant \$4972

6. Your other funding source(s) fundraisers and contributions

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) Carol G. Mann Date 8/28/2015

Printed Name/Title Carol Mann, Beginnings Director

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. Only electronic submissions will be accepted.



The Beginnings program, a vital ministry of First Baptist Church, Indianapolis, has a long history of serving this community with quality child care. We have recently attained a Level 3 status in the **Indiana Paths to Quality Program**. This achievement provides for a planned curriculum, early childhood cognitive development, socialization and professional staff development. Just 2 years ago, only 22% of Central Indiana pre - school programs had reached this level.

In addition, this classification has qualified us for eight **On My Way Pre K** scholarships as part of the state program. This has opened the door for scholarships with the goal of arresting the cycle of poverty that affects “the least of these” in our surrounding community. The United Way of Central Indiana has noted: “Research shows that quality child care can make a difference. Children who attend quality child care are more successful in school and in life. **The impact is greater for lower income families.**”

Beginnings has a 30 year history and legacy of providing loving child care in this community. This program is offered in an ecumenical Christian environment that values all people, faiths and cultures. Beginnings looks very much like the community in which it resides. This part of Indianapolis has become a destination point for emigres from all over the world. In our program over 25% of our families are from other countries around the globe – Myanmar to Eritrea. English is the second language for many of our parents and our children. This is also true of our staff which is comprised of many different nationalities.

We celebrate this diversity and richness as one of our core values, as well as a powerful tool for teaching children.

Beginnings has strong support from First Baptist Church, the oldest congregation in the city of Indianapolis. FBC Indy has itself a substantial legacy of mission and outreach, first in downtown Indianapolis, then in the 60's as a ‘suburban’ church that has now ‘morphed’ into this mid - town area of Indianapolis. This area, known as Nora, was once homogenous and upper middle class. Today 84 % of the children have free or reduced lunches in the school system and parents for whom English is their second language – if they speak the language at all.

First Baptist is home to its own Karen (Burmese) American Baptist Church and Community Center for Education and has historical ties of 200 years to the Burmese Community. For Beginnings, the realization of the Level 3 Paths to Quality complements the church’s increasing diversity and heterogeneity. Dr. Fred Lewis, Senior Pastor, “Beginnings is an integral part of our whole ministry in this community as we seek to be a welcoming, diverse and inclusive congregation in the Spirit of Christ.”

In 2015, as part of our **On My Way Pre K** status, the scholarships we received were for low income families with 4 years olds as they prepare for kindergarten and their school careers. Yet we know that the need is greater than what we are currently able to provide. We are asking for \$4972 to grant two additional children 2 days a week for the balance of this year.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carol Mann". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name of the signatory.

Carol Mann, Beginnings Director