

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: **Henderson Memorial Baptist Church, in partnership with Western Maine Homeless Outreach**

Affiliation with ABCUSA: **Henderson Memorial Baptist Church is affiliated with ABCUSA through the American Baptist Churches of Maine (ABCOM)**

Address: **110 Academy Street/P. O. Box 147, Farmington, ME 04938**

Phone: **207-778-2163**

Federal Tax ID# **01-6026692**

Contact person: **Rev. Susan Crane** email: cranewolcott@myfairpoint.net

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 **\$5,000-\$6,000**

5. Amount being requested from the ABCUSA Matthew 25 Grant: **\$5,000**

6. Your other funding source(s): **West Association of ABCOM churches will be invited to add to the Matthew 25 fund as part of a local mission focus all our communities can benefit from.**

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. Susan E. Crane, D. Min.*

Date: **September 1, 2013**

Printed Name/Title: **Rev. Susan E. Crane, Pastor and member of the WMHO Advisory Council**

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.



A Matthew 25 Ministry for Homeless Families Transitioning Back into the Community

Henderson Memorial Baptist Church (HMBC) is proposing to create a Matthew 25 ministry in conjunction with a new organization in Farmington, Maine, called the Western Maine Homeless Outreach (WMHO). The shelter will be the first shelter in Franklin County and will serve families from any community in Western Maine (Franklin, Oxford, northern Androscoggin, western Kennebec and Somerset Counties). Western Maine comprises a large, underserved rural area. Poverty and food insecurity are prevalent conditions, jobs are scarce and even minimum wage service-sector jobs are intentionally filled on a part-time basis. Even working families find it difficult to make ends meet. Currently, the closest family shelter is an hour away; and families with children in school need a facility closer to their schools.

WMHO plans to open in a temporary facility on October 1, 2013. The location will be on the lower level of a Farmington church, Living Waters Assembly of God. Once WMHO has served families this winter, there will finally be proof that there are indeed homeless people in the rural areas of Western Maine. In order to “count” as homeless, one must be counted in a shelter on a certain night in the winter. Without a shelter, taking this count has been impossible; therefore, the State of Maine cannot fund any services to homeless families until they can be counted in a shelter. A group of dedicated churches, agencies and citizens banded together this summer to create a temporary shelter that will put Western Maine “on the map” as having a homeless population. A more permanent building is being sought for the future. This first winter WMHO expects to be able to house 26 parents and children and assist them in rebuilding their lives. Costs for the use of the facility and the targeted case management will be covered by a Maine Care reimbursement of \$86/hour per homeless family member. Supper and breakfast meals will be provided by volunteer groups from the community—mostly churches and service organizations, who will take turns cooking meals with the guests on a rotating basis. Guests will need to be elsewhere during the day time, and will be welcome to visit the Warming Center two days a week, where a free hot meal is also served by other host churches.

The Mission of Western Maine Homeless Outreach (WMHO) is to provide emergency shelter to homeless families from Western Maine. Our goal is to transform futures by strengthening families to become self-sustaining.”

HMBC is proposing a Matthew 25 ministry that will assist homeless families make the transition from shelter to community by providing up to \$500 per family to assist with essential housing costs over the first six months post-shelter. Matthew 25 Grants could be used to assist with security deposits, rent, electricity, or heating fuel in order to help the family maintain a home, as they rebuild their lives. Furnishings can be donated. These families have health care and SNAP food stamps. What they need is a warm, safe place to live; and rents in the Farmington area are approximately 25% higher than what the median income can afford. Subsidized housing vouchers are hard to come by; the average wait is four years now. It is housing costs that overwhelm families and drive them into homelessness. Heat is not included in most rental housing in Western Maine, and the primary source of fuel is kerosene, which is over \$4/gallon.

The Pastor and Deacons of HMBC would work with families preparing to leave the shelter and visit with them over the course of six months to assist with budgeting and provide Matthew 25 grants when needed. Grants would be payable directly to the landlord, electric company or fuel vendor, and would be capped at no more than \$500 per family over the course of the six months. Other sources of financial help (discretionary church funds and ecumenical programs) in the community would also be utilized, but they too are limited, so the Matthew 25 ministry would target those leaving the shelter to better enable them to transition successfully into being self-sustaining families in the community.

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THE MATTHEW 25 MINISTRY OF HMBC

INCOME 2013

Matthew 25 Grant from ABCUSA	\$ 5,000
Other Contributions from West Association AB Churches	\$ 1,000

PROPOSED DISBURSEMENTS

10-12 @ \$500/family in housing assistance	\$6,000
Or more than 12, if some families need less than \$500	

Money would be available to be given to supplement

What the family can afford for basic housing needs:

Security deposit, rent, electricity, heat.

If successful, additional resources would be sought from Church and Community sources the following year.

Matthew 25 Grant Money from ABCUSA would be placed in separate checking account under the auspices of the Henderson Memorial Baptist Church with two members of the church authorized to sign checks for disbursement.

Detailed records of the disbursements by family and category will be kept for the purpose of reporting to ABCUSA and also for purposes of raising future funds to carry on the Matthew 25 ministry for graduates of the Western Maine Homeless Outreach Family Shelter.

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR WESTERN MAINE HOMELESS OUTREACH

START-UP COSTS

\$17,000	Materials for volunteer contractor to put up walls and create egress doors to meet code
\$ 4,000	Plumbing upgrades and a new shower in the Ladies bathroom; licensed plumber required
\$ 2,500	Electrical (estimated materials and labor for lighting and hard-wired smoke detectors to meet code; must be a licensed electrician)
\$ 1,500	Purchase commercial washer and dryer; and hookups
\$ 3,000	Purchase bedding mattresses. Bunk beds already bought with Emergency Food & Shelter Program grant.
\$ 2,000	Legal and IRS fees to register as a nonprofit corporation and obtain tax exempt status
\$ 1,000	Liability Insurance (estimate)
\$ 5,000	Initial payments to the Targeted Case Manager and Overnight Supervisor for first 6 weeks until Maine Care reimbursements come in to cover costs.

\$28,500 Total Start Up Budget

FIRST YEAR BUDGET

\$13,000	Facility Expenses to be paid to Living Waters host church
unknown	Targeted Case Manager (per diem, billable hours)
unknown	Overnight Supervisor (wages to be determined)

These budgets are still being determined are not yet final.
Feeding and support ministries will be provided by volunteers.