

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 Pantry of Hope.
Affiliation with ABCUSA (Check made payable to) First Baptist Church Melrose.
Mailing Address 561 Main St.
Melrose MA 02176.
Phone 781-665-4470 Federal Tax ID# 042108357
Contact person Damaris Cami-Staples email melroseIBC@aol.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 we do not have a set dollar amount to request. We do not have a set budget for the Food Pantry but we do int to accomodate all of our clients to the best of our ability.
5. Amount being requested from the ABCUSA Matthew 25 Grant \$2,500 - \$3,000 We would like

6. Your other funding source(s) we are attaching copies of the Church's outreach bank statements (because the Food Pantry is under the Church's outreach team). help with funding our food pantry, especially with the holidays approaching
- 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. Also, we are attaching invoices from the Greater Boston Food Bank to reflect those purchases

(Signed) Lisa Dow

Date 8/28/15

Printed Name/Title Lisa Dow, Outreach Board Member.

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.



August 28, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for allowing us apply for this grant. "Pantry of Hope" has been in operation for 15 years now. We thank God for what He has allowed us to do to help those who need it most in His Name.

We have about 300 families that come throughout the year. Of course, not all of them come on a regular basis, but this is the approximate number of families we serve. We keep careful records of who is there each week and we use two forms that each client needs to fill up when they come for the first time. These forms were submitted to us by the Greater Boston Food Bank.

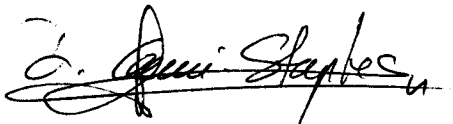
We do not have a set budget to give you. We depend solely on donations (both food donations and monetary donations). We have been very blessed by the help of many individuals, families, businesses in the community, churches in the community, and special food collections from our local supermarkets.

We keep careful records of what comes in and what goes out each week through those who volunteer and commit to finding the lowest prices and also through what we spend monthly at the Greater Boston Food Bank.

The bank account that the Outreach Team operates encompasses donations for "Pantry of Hope", "Got Books" (another outreach program through which we are able to support missionaries, our own youth group or special efforts during the year) and "Feed My Sheep" (a larger feeding program in Malden, MA). We have monthly meetings to discuss, make decisions and check the status of the bank account, etc.

If we can be of any service to you, please do let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Cami-Staples", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rev. Damaris Cami-Staples

First Baptist Church

561 Main St,

Melrose, MA 02176

(781) 665-4470 x.401

The mission statement for us here at Melrose First Baptist church is to bring people to Jesus Christ through the following: preaching and teaching the Word of God to all (young to old), making a joyful noise to the Lord through song and celebration, serving those in need through feeding ministries such as "Pantry of Hope" and "Feed my Sheep," by ministering to those who seek hope through biblical counseling and the fellowship of believers and by supporting mission work at home and around the world through prayer, giving and going.

As of 2014, the Pantry of Hope served 237 families throughout the school year. Per month, the Pantry of Hope services between 42 and 90 families, depending on the need.

We are requesting funds through your grant to assist our Food Pantry mission here at Melrose First Baptist Church. Our volunteers serve individuals and their families from within our neighboring communities and who fall below the poverty level. There is no requirement for the clients to be active church-goers, however we do enjoy conversing with them about their faith and their experiences with how Jesus Christ has worked in their lives (both past and present). We are always striving to keep an uplifted spirit and positive attitude and do our best to be good role models and lead by example displaying the virtues of our Lord Jesus such as acceptance, kindness, openness, love and we also let our clients know that we care for them and are happy to see them and glad that we can be a resource to help them, either consistently (which is every two weeks) or just on occasion (if they are financially struggling during a particular time of the year). Our food pantry is a place where some of our "regular customers" can come to socialize and feel a safe haven from the busy rest of the world around us, which can be so demanding, overwhelming and judgmental. We have built some wonderful and rewarding relationships with some of our clients. Personally, I have made two dear friends while volunteering at the food pantry; I've been a member of our church for just about 4 years now and have been volunteering at the food pantry for about 2 years- two of the women that are clients have been so great and inspiring to me that I am inviting them to my wedding; there's just something about these two that make me feel good and happy when I'm around them (beautiful spirits).

Our food pantry offers families at Thanksgiving and Christmas time extra food and even whole turkeys, along with pre-cooked full meals. The demand can be high, especially around these holidays but we have a truly wonderful team of volunteers and a strong desire to feed as many folks as possible and a dynamic team (both behind the scenes, ordering and picking up food deliveries, shelf stockers and on the front line working the day the clients come to shop) which help make a tremendous difference. Our volunteers are always striving to find better ways to serve the needs of our clients and to collaborate with local outreach organizations in an effort to be a blessing to our clients. Most recently, we have worked with Lovin' Spoonfuls, a local group who deliver specialty food from stores such as Whole Foods Market same-day so that the items are fresh and extra yummy- this is a real treat for our clients and a surprise offering.

We are blessed with private donations, at times and this helps us to be able to shop at local grocery stores for items that we feel serve our diverse clientele best (such as gluten-free, sugar-free, etc.). We believe that by being this resource for our community, that when clients come in, they may feel moved by the Holy Spirit and that perhaps they or their children may come to believe in Jesus as their savior and to feel the unconditional love of our Heavenly Father, who is our sustainer and ever-present healer.

Pantry of Hope Mission Statement and Guidelines

Mission Statement:

To serve God's children who are in need of a helping hand by providing food, encouragement, a list of resources (food stamps, WIC, thrift shops) and spiritual guidance if requested.

Guidelines:

Each person or family will be asked on their initial visit to provide us with information which will include their name, address, phone number (optional), number of family members, who referred them and what other needs they might have. This information will be kept confidential and used only as a guide to track the frequency of visits and the amount of food being distributed.

Hours of operation:

The current hours of operation are every Tuesday from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Frequency of visits:

Each person or family may only visit the pantry every other week. This is so we may provide for as many people as possible.

Food distribution limits:

A limit of how many items that can be taken on each visit will be determined by the needs of the individual or family at the discretion of the food pantry coordinator. This will also be determined by the amount of food on the shelves at the time of each visit.