

**ABCUSA Matthew 25 Grant Application
2014-2015**

**Grace Connections Church
A Fellowship of the ABCUSA
300 North Ash
Valley Center, KS 67147-2539**

Phone: 316-755-1855
Federal Tax ID# 48-0896156
Contact: Anita Yoakum
Email: Anita.Yoakum@viachristi.org



Grace Connections Church
300 North Ash
Valley Center, KS 67147-2539

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: Grace Connections Church

Affiliation with ABCUSA: Yes, we are affiliated with ABCUSA; we are part of the ABC of the Central Region (ABCCR), whose office is in Topeka, KS

Address: 300 North Ash, Valley Center, KS 67147-2539

Phone: 316.755-1855 (church phone) Federal Tax ID#: 48-0896156

Contact person: Anita Yoakum, volunteer children's ministry leader (work phone 316.268.8551)

Contact person email: Anita.Yoakum@viachristi.org

Church email: office@graceconnections.kscoxmail.com

2. Please submit with your application a copy of:

- Your mission statement -- **done; included with our application packet**
- 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 – **also included with this Application packet**

3. How do you plan to use the requested funds? How will the funds specifically assist individuals battling poverty and its effects? **Submitted on a separate sheet**

4. Total cost of the project: **\$8,080.00 (projected estimate)**

5. Amount being requested from the ABCUSA Matthew 25 Grant: **\$5,000.00**

6. Your other funding source(s): **contributions from our church congregation**

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) Anita J. Yoakum Date 8-29-2014

Printed Name/Title: **Anita J. Yoakum, Volunteer Children's Ministry Leader, Grace Connections Church**

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.



Financial Information
Grace Connections Church

Konnection Kidz Budget

Literature	\$ 300.00
Resources/Supplies	\$ 100.00
Nursery Worker	\$2,600.00
Nursery Supplies	\$ 150.00
<u>KBI Checks</u>	<u>\$ 180.00</u>

Total Children's Budget \$3,330.00

Wednesday Night Meal Expense

50 meals/year @\$95per meal \$4,750.00 **Total**
(serves 50-70 people per meal)



Grace Connections Church
300 North Ash
Valley Center, KS 67147-2539

**Grace Connections Church
Mission Statement**

Impacting our community with the reality of God's love and grace through Jesus Christ.

**Konnection Kidz Children's Ministry
Mission Statement**

Konnection Kidz Children's Ministry opens their hearts and doors to children in the Valley Center community to build relationships, meet physical needs and evangelize boys and girls with the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, and then teaching them to share His love with others.

How the 2014-2015 funds would be used and how they will assist individuals in poverty.

The 2014 – 2015 mission field for Grace Connections Church in Valley Center, Kansas, has been blessed so much by the Matthew 25 grant funds we received for the 2013-2014 period. Children are important to Jesus and to Grace Connections Church!

As mentioned in last year's application, Grace Connections recognizes the importance of introducing children to the love and forgiveness of God through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Because of this high priority to reach children in our community for Christ, two years ago, we hired a part-time youth minister and maintain an active ministry called Konnection Kidz. This ministry continues to be an outreach to all un-churched children in the town of Valley Center, Kansas. The children's ministry has flourished for many years with the greatest draw on Wednesday Nights. We feel like one appeal to our Wednesday night Konnection Kidz Ministry is the free meal offered prior to our Bible Classes. While evangelism is our first priority, we recognize that children with full stomachs will be more receptive to the Gospel. This is why we continue to request your assistance.

Our church is located in the city limits with many low income neighborhoods within walking distance. We average between 50-60 people every Wednesday night for a meal and Bible Classes. Seventy five percent of these individuals are children. A majority of the children we are working with walk to church without any parental presence. Several of our church members living in Valley Center see first-hand the poor living conditions and food shortage many of the children that come to our Wednesday night service are experiencing. It is common for a child to share with us that their "parent is in jail", or "the police were at our house last night". These children's families also tend to be extremely transient, furthering the insecurity these children feel.

With the continuing high unemployment rates, rising costs of living and the desperate plight children and families we serve, our donations have continued to run on the lower side while the mission field we serve has been showing a steady increase. Additionally, the salary of our part-time youth pastor, an increase in the numbers of youth attending our church because of his hard work, our budget is stretched as we strive to continue to serve free healthy meals every Wednesday night. Although we expect our numbers to continue to grow, because of the low economic status of the people we are called to serve, this growth continues not to be greatly subsidized by our budget. Despite all the obstacles previously mentioned, we continue to work towards being a stable support system in the lives of these children. We know that the regular meals, Bible classes, and unconditional love of God we demonstrate on Wednesday nights provide a sense of security for these children.

Additionally, through our Konnection Kidz Ministry we are presented with many opportunities to minister to the parents of these children when we are alerted to needs such as food, clothing, or late utility bills. Frequently the children are the ones responsible for bringing their

parents to church for special programs and dinners. Our objective is not only to minister to the children but to also reach their parents with the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Our 2014-2015 goal is to not only continue this Wednesday night Ministry, feeding the soul and the body, but to increase the number of children reached for our Lord Jesus Christ by 30% over the next year. We invite you to partner with us to continue to minister the "least of these" in Valley Center, Kansas. This grant would be used to provide food for our Wednesday night meals, as we continue to work toward our goals.

As a special note to this grant application, we would like to share with you that through the generosity of the Matthew 25 grant funds we received last year, we were able to continue our weekly ministry this past summer and serve meals to hungry children and their families during our Vacation Bible School "Cross Canyon Trail: Ridin' Strong With Jesus" from June 18 through July 16, 2014. We averaged a weekly attendance of 60 children and adults, were able to reach some unchurched children who had never before attended church of any kind, and had a large amount of involvement of adults in this weekly ministry.