

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 Milwaukee Christian Center

Affiliation with ABCUSA Neighborhood Action Agency

Address 807 S. 14th St., Milwaukee, WI 53204

Phone 414-902-5380 Federal Tax ID# 39-0807066

Contact person Karen Higgins email khiggins@mccwi.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.

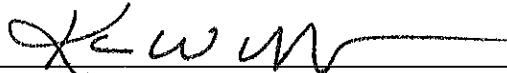
3. How do you plan to use the requested funds? How will the funds specifically assist individuals battling poverty and its effects? (Please submit on separate sheet. Maximum of one page.)

4. Total cost of the project \$139,488

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

6. Your other funding source(s) United Way, Empty Bowls fundraiser, CSFP Boxes from Hunger Task Force, Roundy's Foundation, Milwaukee Public Market, individual donations

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)  Date 8/27/14

Printed Name/Title Karen Higgins, Executive 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 beth.fogg@abc-usa.org. Only electronic submissions will be accepted.





*Moving people beyond
the challenges of poverty*

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Executive Director
Karen W. Higgins

August 27th, 2014

Beth Fogg
Mission Resource Development
P.O. Box 851
Valley Forge, PA 19482-0851

Dear Ms. ^{Beth}Fogg:

On behalf of the Milwaukee Christian Center I am pleased to submit a proposal for the ABCUSA Matthew 25 Grant in support of our Emergency Food Pantry (EFP), which serves low-income South Side families in crisis. A \$5,000 grant will enable the EFP to continue to stock the shelves with fresh and culturally appropriate food.

As Milwaukee's only "Choice Pantry" open five days a week, families visit a user-friendly shop-like environment to select food according to their family size. We offer staples and, as much as possible, fresh food and milk to provide nutritious meals for families suffering through a period of hardship. Given the multiethnic population we serve, we also strive to provide culturally appropriate food Hmong, Lao, and Latino families know how to prepare. By providing choice, we best meet families' individual needs in a more dignified setting and minimize waste as people only take food they can and know how to prepare in their homes.

We appreciate your previous support of our mission and thank you for considering our current request. If you have any questions about our proposal, please feel free to contact me at 414-902-5380 or email me at khiggins@mccwi.org.

Respectfully,

Karen Higgins
Executive Director

*Thanks again for consideration
of our request!*



Milwaukee Christian Center

Mission

MCC believes all people deserve to be treated with compassion and respect. We exist to move people beyond the challenges of poverty through life-affirming programs and supportive services.

Vision

MCC is a beacon of hope for the impoverished by compassionately guiding people out of poverty to create a community where suffering is alleviated, the inherent value of each person is cherished, and opportunities abound.

Milwaukee Christian Center
2014 Organizational Budget

NATIONAL AND STATE ABC	13,860
FEES-GOVERNMENT	299,161
GRANT REVENUES-GOVERNMENT	3,365,264
GRANT REVENUES-NON GOVERNMENT	180,765
FOUNDATIONS	252,204
PROGRAM SERVICE FEE	932,400
OTHER REVENUE	50,300
FUND RAISING-OTHERS	22,000
HOUSE SALES	45,000
UNITED WAY	263,110
TOTAL REVENUE	<u>5,424,064</u>

SALARIES	2,831,142
PAYROLL TAXES & BENEFITS	645,540
TRAVEL	52,400
PROGRAM EXPENSES	12,840
OCCUPANCY	128,315
UTILITIES & TELEPHONE	82,347
EQUIPMENT RENTAL/MAINTENANCE	40,158
CONSUMABLE SUPPLIES	110,035
STAFF DEVELOPMENT	41,873
OUTSIDE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	825,846
INSURANCE	45,875
MISCELLANEOUS OFFICE EXPENSE	60,428
INTEREST EXPENSE	5,000
PURCHASES - MATERIAL	542,266
TOTAL EXPENSES	5,424,064

Milwaukee Christian Center
2014 Emergency Food Pantry Budget

Emerg

	<u>UW</u>
GRANT REVENUES-GOVERNMENT	6,000
GRANT REVENUES-NON GOVERNMENT	
FOUNDATIONS	30,000
PROGRAM SERVICE FEE	4,200
OTHER REVENUE	5,000
FUND RAISING-OTHERS	15,967
HOUSE SALES	
UNITED WAY	78,146
TOTAL REVENUE	<u>139,313</u>
SALARIES	54,698
PAYROLL TAXES & BENEFITS	14,528
TRAVEL	900
PROGRAM EXPENSES	0
OCCUPANCY	19,831
UTILITIES & TELEPHONE	8,974
EQUIPMENT RENTAL/MAINTENANCE	2,807
CONSUMABLE SUPPLIES	17,024
STAFF DEVELOPMENT	100
OUTSIDE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	468
INSURANCE	1,235
MISCELLANEOUS OFFICE EXPENSE	575
INTEREST EXPENSE	0
PURCHASES - MATERIAL	0
ADMINISTRATION (ALLOCATED)	18,171
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>139,313</u>
EXCESS REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	<u>0</u>

Milwaukee Christian Center's (MCC) Emergency Food Pantry (EFP) provides a three to five day supply of emergency food assistance, personal care items, formula and diapers to individuals and families in need on Milwaukee's South Side. Open five days a week, MCC's EFP is a primary point of service for families in crisis related to unemployment, underemployment, fire, family violence, and medical problems.

MCC serves an ethnically diverse population which includes African American, Caucasian, Hmong, Native American, Lao, and Latino families. Because of our multiethnic client base, we offer culturally specific food as much as possible. Additionally, we conduct an intake process during which families' additional needs are identified and appropriate community resources and referrals are provided. This two-prong approach—providing food and additional resources—enables MCC to help break the cycle of poverty.

94% of families who visit the EFP have an income below \$9,999 per year and live in some of the most impoverished areas of Milwaukee. Frequently, these neighborhoods are considered "food deserts" largely empty of affordable grocery store options offering healthy food. This, paired with a sharp reduction in food stamps in 2013, has left many families short of funds and in need of wholesome food. Last year we assisted 12,463 people (duplicated), 42% of whom were children.

As we approach the Matthew 25 Fund for assistance, we have two pressing needs:

1) In May of 2013, we moved to a new site, approximately 1.5 miles from our former site. Because of increased space, we were able to re-open our pantry as a "Choice Pantry". Designed to be user-friendly, clients "go shopping" using shopping carts in an area arranged like a small store. They select a designated number of items based on their family size from each of the basic food groups. We offer fruits, vegetables, beans, peanut butter, government commodities, condiments, soups, meat, juice, cereal, milk, and cheeses. We believe this type of pantry is more humane and cost effective, as families take food that they can cook and eat given personal tastes and access to a microwave, stove, and refrigerator. Our client surveys affirm this. Since opening as a "choice pantry" significantly more people report having their needs met.

While we receive commodity foods and canned goods through Hunger Task Force, we are continually in need of fresh food items to provide families with nutritious options. Your grant would help us stock our pantry with fresh fruits, vegetables, meat, fish, and dairy products so we can continue to provide families "choice".

2) Your grant would also assist us in stocking our pantry with culturally appropriate food that our Hmong, Lao, and Latino families—many of whom are resettled refugees or first generation citizens—are used to eating. Knowing how to use familiar ingredients is one less hurdle for these individuals in a time of crisis.