

ABCUSA MATTHEW 25 GRANT APPLICATION - 2017



A generous donor has given a sum of money through American Baptist Churches USA Office of the General Secretary, 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. Awards will be granted only to ministries of an American Baptist church in good standing with their Region. This is a change from previous grant cycles. We will no longer award grants to organizations affiliated with churches such as a cooperative group that includes non-ABC churches; applications must be submitted by an ABC church for work being done directly by that church.

Only one application per church will be considered within a 24-month period. Because this change was made following the Fall 2016 cycle, recipients of a Spring 2016 grant are eligible to apply.

Grant funds may not be used to fund staff positions, rainy day funds, church benevolent funds, regular ongoing church operating expenses (i.e. utilities, insurance), repairs, or for capital improvements to facilities. Grant awards will be sent to the ABC church that is applying for the grant; checks will not be made payable to an individual or ministry.

Tab through the document to fill in all the fields below.

1. Applicant Information

Name of Church: **Living Word Baptist Church**

Mailing Address: **320 Compass Avenue Beachwood, NJ 08722**

Phone: **732-281-8787 / 732-691-1844 (cell)** Federal Tax ID#: **20-5941864**

Name of Region: **ABCNJ - North Shore**

Contact person (person completing this form): **Rev. Susan Royle**

Email of contact person: **suz4031@aol.com**

Does your church contribute to United Mission? **Yes** No

Have you previously been awarded an ABCUSA Matthew 25 Grant? Yes **No**

If so, have you submitted your report on the use of the funds? Yes No

2. What ministry or group will use these funds?

Living Word Baptist Church’s “Diapers and More” Ministry

3. Specifically, how do you plan to use the requested funds?

Please include a very brief and specific statement on how the money will be spent. For example: to purchase school supplies for 100 elementary school children; to provide summer camp scholarships for 10 children from low-income families; purchase diapers and wipes for single mothers. You are encouraged to attach a longer description (no more than one page) of the ministry or project.

Funds will be used to purchase diapers (Newborn through size 6 as well as adult diapers), wipes, soap, razors, deodorant, toothpaste, toilet paper, and laundry detergent for women and families in need.

4. How will the funds assist individuals battling poverty and its effects? What impact do you hope to make on the target group or community?

Diapers and More is a ministry of compassion that provides diapers, wipes, and hygiene products to women and families in need. In 2015, twelve percent of households in Ocean County, NJ were found to be living below the poverty line, with women and children disproportionately affected (Legal Services of NJ 2015). Families and individuals in poverty struggle to meet all of their basic needs, often sacrificing essentials such as food or personal items to meet other necessities. (Legal Services of NJ 2010). In addition to the physical effects of going without, the constant struggle to

provide - for both themselves and their families - can cause deep emotional trauma for those in poverty. In a survey of low income earners from nineteen NJ counties, respondents often talked of the stress they felt in their daily lives. They used words such as desperate, worried, nerve-wracked, embarrassed, and exhausted. (Legal Services of NJ 2010). For mothers, the stress of poverty can also have pernicious repercussions on their children, affecting their cognitive, emotional, and language development (Yoshikowa, Aber, and Beardslee 2012).

Studies suggest that many cannot escape poverty without outside assistance (Legal Services of NJ 2010). There are government programs available to low income families in NJ. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) helps low income families buy groceries. Similarly, the New Jersey Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), provides food, nutrition education, and community support for income eligible pregnant and postpartum women, infants, and children up to five years old. Both of these programs play an important role in assisting NJ families in poverty, yet both are limited in the services they provide. Importantly, neither program provides or assists in the purchase of diapers or hygiene products. Costs of diapers can be substantial, especially for those already struggling. For a single child, diapers cost on average \$600 a year, with wipes adding an additional \$240 a year.

We started Diapers and More in June 2016 to help fill the assistance gaps left by SNAP and WIC. We provide diapers, wipes, soap, razors, deodorant, toothpaste, toilet paper, laundry detergent, and combs. In providing these items, we hope to ease the stress and financial burden - even if in small part - to local families, especially mothers, in poverty.

We know of no other program in Ocean County that supplies all of these items. We also provide friendship and a sense of community. People who come to Diapers and More can speak with the pastor and receive prayer and counsel. They are treated with dignity, served refreshments and are invited to church. Their children are also invited to Sunday School, youth group, and Vacation Bible School.

References

Legal Services of NJ. 2015. Poverty benchmarks 2015. <http://poverty.lsnj.org/Pages/Benchmarks2015.pdf> [Accessed Aug 25 2017]

Legal Services of NJ. 2010. Food, clothing, health, or a home? The terrible choices and deprivations - and great courage - of New Jerseyans who live in poverty. <http://poverty.lsnj.org/Pages/IncomelnadequacyReport.pdf> [Accessed Aug 25 2017]

Yoshikowa H, Aber JL, Beardslee WR. 2012. The effects of poverty on mental, emotional, and behavioral health of children and youth. *Am Psychol* 67(4):272-84

5. Total cost of the project:
The average monthly cost for the project is about \$1,426.25, equating to roughly \$17,115 per year. Each month we distribute about 80 -100 packages of diapers and wipes, along with other hygiene items. See the Financial Statement at the end of this application for more details.
6. Amount being requested from the ABCUSA Matthew 25 Grant: **\$5,000**
7. List other funding source(s):
The funding for "Diapers and More" comes from members and friends of Living Word Baptist Church who donate to this ministry, as well as from a small church run recycling program.

8. Please submit along with your application a copy of:

- Your mission statement.

“Living Word Baptist Church is a Christ-centered, mission-focused, family-oriented community of believers who passionately love Jesus and one another and who are dedicated to sharing that love through worship, evangelism, fellowship, and service to our community, our country and our world.”

- 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.

See attached Financial Statement

By submitting this application on behalf of **Living Word Baptist Church**, I certify that all the information submitted with this application is true and correct. We agree to use and/or disburse any grant funds awarded for the sole purpose as described within this application. We will supply a 1-page report on the use of the funds and a photo/photos within six months of receipt of the grant.

Application submitted by **Rev. Susan Royle**

Date:

Please note:

- Incomplete applications will not be considered.
- Recipients agree to share their stories via the ABCUSA website.
- Application deadline September 1. Grants will be distributed no later than October 15.
- Only electronic submissions of completed applications and supporting documents will be accepted. Completed applications should be sent via email to Tina.Turner@abc-usa.org.
- Please review the instructions that follow and initial at the bottom to indicate you have read this information.

Instructions and information for completing the 2017 ABCUSA Matthew 25 Grant application

1. General information

Awards will be granted only to ministries of an American Baptist church in good standing with their Region. This is a change from previous grant cycles. We will no longer award grants to organizations affiliated with churches such as a cooperative group that include non-ABC churches; applications must be submitted by an ABC church in good standing.

When determining Grants awards, the following criteria will be considered: whether the church is in good standing within the region; whether the church contributes to United Mission; number of and amounts of previous Matthew 25 Grants received; sustainability of ministry beyond Matthew 25 Grant funding; description of ministry and needs addressed by funding; and the budget submitted along with this application.

Checks will be made payable to the church. Checks will not be made to an individual or ministry.

3. Specifically, how do you plan to use the requested funds?

Briefly describe what will be purchased with the grant funds if awarded. Be specific with the expected use of these funds. This should be a very short and specific statement on where the money will be spent, do not include a lengthy narrative of the ministry project.

You are encouraged to provide a longer description of the ministry but this additional information must be limited to no more than one page in length and submitted as an attachment.

Please note that grant funds may not be used to fund staff positions and salaries, for capital improvements to church facilities, to pay for regular ongoing church operating expenses (i.e. utilities, insurance) or repairs, or to maintain a “Rainy Day fund” or church benevolent fund.

4. How will the funds assist individuals battling poverty and its effects?

Describe how the Matthew 25 grant funds will benefit those less fortunate. What effect and impact do you hope to have on individuals battling poverty or the community you are hoping to serve?

5. Total cost of the project

List the total amount of this project or ministry need.

6. Amount being requested from the ABCUSA Matthew 25 Grant.

One application per church will be considered per 24 month period. Because this change was made following the Fall 2016 grant cycle, applicants who received funding in Spring 2016 are eligible to apply for the Fall 2017 grant cycle. The maximum amount awarded is \$5,000. If you have previously been a Matthew 25 grant recipient, you must have submitted a follow-up report in order to be eligible to reapply.

7. Your other funding source(s).

List all other sources providing funding for this ministry.

8. Please submit with your application a copy of:

- Your mission statement

Include as an attachment a copy of the church or ministry's mission statement.

- A financial statement for this ministry

This budget or projected budget must include itemized expenses and income for the ministry applying for the Matthew 25 grant funding. Church budgets are not acceptable.

Other information and requirements

By submitting an application,

- You certify that all information submitted is true and correct;
- You agree to use and/or disburse any awarded grant funds for the sole purpose as described within this application;
- You agree to supply a one page report on the use of funds and a photo/photos within six months of receipt of the grant;
- You give ABCUSA permission to share your story via the ABCUSA website or newsletter;
- You give ABCUSA permission to use the photograph(s) submitted for printing and/or posting.

I have reviewed the instructions provided. (initial here) SR

Your typed name and initials are your electronic signatures on this document.

Reverend Susan Royle

“Diapers and More” Financial Statement

Living Word Baptist Church's "Diapers and More" Average Monthly Budget			
Item	Average Unit Price	# Units	Total
Package of Diapers	\$10.56	90	\$950.40
Wipes	\$2.00	90	\$180.00
Soap	\$0.33	75	\$24.75
Razors	\$0.12	75	\$9.00
Deodorant	\$1.00	75	\$75.00
Toothpaste	\$1.00	75	\$75.00
Toilet Paper	\$0.25	150	\$37.50
Laundry Detergent	\$1.00	75	\$75.00
Combs	\$0.00	75	\$0.00
Average Monthly Total	=		\$1,426.65

Budget Notes:

- Package of diapers cost is based on a package of diapers containing 32 diapers, with an average diaper price of \$0.33/diaper.
- Combs are donated from a local barber shop at no cost.

Currently our funding comes entirely through the generosity of our church members and friends who donate funds as well as many of the needed items. Eight months ago we started a recycling program hoping to generate additional income as our financial donations rarely meet the demands each month. The program has generated an additional 400.00. Some of our ministry recipients also donate to our recycling program as a way to payback the generosity and assistance they receive from "Diapers and More".

Although we believe we have been called by God to this ministry, and feel blessed and privileged to serve our sisters and brothers in need, it is a heavy burden on our small church and the Matthew 25 Grant would ease that burden immensely and allow this vital ministry to continue.