



*Moving people beyond
the challenges of poverty*

February 28, 2013

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

Dear Ms. Fogg,

On behalf of Milwaukee Christian Center, I am pleased to submit a \$5,000 proposal to the ABCUSA MATTHEW 25 GRANT. We are requesting support of our Emergency Food Pantry, which provides support to over 13,000 individuals and families on a yearly basis.

2013 is a year of transition as Milwaukee Christian Center moves to a new site one mile away from where we currently are. At the new site the Emergency Food Pantry can expand its efforts by offering a "choice pantry" to participants. We will now have the physical space to create a grocery like atmosphere, where participants can choose within food categories the types of foods that meet their nutritional and cultural needs. This hopefully creates a more dignified setting to receive food assistance and curtails waste as people take only food they believe they will eat or prepare in their home setting.

Having a "choice pantry" means we will want to ensure that our stocked shelves do have some variety, beyond the donated food we have received from Hunger Task Force, churches, and schools. We will also work to offer culturally appropriate food for the Southeast Asian and Latino population served by our pantry.

We appreciate your consideration of our request. Feel free to call me at 414-645-5350 if you have any questions or concerns about the proposal.

Respectfully,

Karen W. Higgins
Executive Director



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." The donor's primary concern is to help ameliorate poverty. ABCUSA will distribute grants of up to \$5,000 semi-annually as long as the generosity of this donor continues. A panel will select recipients 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.

1. General Information:

Organization Name: Milwaukee Christian Center

Affiliation with ABCUSA: Neighborhood Action Agency

Address: 2137 West Greenfield, Milwaukee, WI 53204 until April 8th. After April 8th: 807 S. 14th Street, Milwaukee, WI 53204

Phone: 414-645-5350 Federal Tax ID#: 39-0807066

Contact person: Karen W. Higgins email: khiggins@mccwi.org

2. Please submit with your application a copy of:

- Your mission statement
- Your most recent annual report or audited financial statement

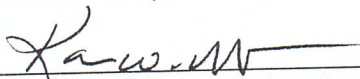
3. How do you plan to use the requested funds? How will the funds specifically assist individuals battling poverty and its effects? (Please submit on separate sheet. Maximum of one page.)

4. Total cost of the project: \$115,993

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, FEMA dollars for direct food purchase

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: February 28, 2013
Printed Name/Title: **Karen W. 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 to:

Mission Resource Development
American Baptist Churches USA
P.O. Box 851
Valley Forge, PA 19482-0851

Or emailed to: Beth.Fogg@abc-usa.org



ABCUSA MATTHEW 25: GRANT APPLICATION

Milwaukee Christian Center's (MCC's) Emergency Food Pantry provides food and personal care items to individuals and families of Milwaukee's South Side, helping in times of crisis related to unemployment, underemployment, fire, family violence, medical problems, and other situations that create financial distress.

MCC serves an ethnically diverse population which includes Caucasian, African American, Hmong, Lao and Latino families. As much as possible culturally appropriate foods are available for those who visit the food pantry. MCC also offers diapers and formula for infants and toddlers, when there is a need identified in the screening process. The pantry is open five days a week and committed to providing a 3-4 day supply of wholesome food to assist those who visit the food pantry.

Assistance is given no more than once a month, unless unusual circumstances qualify a person or family temporarily for additional assistance. Over 13,000 people, of which 5,000 of them are children, make use of the pantry on an annual basis. We are the only food pantry in Milwaukee accessible five days a week.

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

- 1) Milwaukee Christian Center is moving a mile from its current site to a wonderful building that will house all programs under one roof. This building allows MCC the opportunity to expand the food pantry into a "choice" food pantry. A "choice" food pantry is designed to allow participants to "shop" for the foods within nutritional categories to take home with them. Shelving and aisles similar to a grocery store are created to feature food that is available and small shopping carts will be obtained to use as choices are made. We believe this type of pantry becomes more humane and cost effective, as participants take food that they can either cook or eat, given personal tastes and access to a microwave, stove and refrigerator. They are not throwing out food that goes currently into prepackaged boxes because it does not fit with what they want to eat or can eat, given their cooking facilities.

Your grant would help us in our first 12 months of being a "choice" pantry to stock the pantry with the capacity to offer choice. Currently we make do with what we have, except for key items and some purchasing of culturally appropriate food.

- 2) We would utilize the grant to support the purchase of culturally specific food. Limited funding sources have been willing to specifically support our efforts to ensure we have food that Hmong, Lao, and Latino families are used to eating.



Milwaukee Christian Center

2137 W. Greenfield Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53204
(414) 645-5350 • (414) 645-1859
www.mccwi.org

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.