

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 Massachusetts Baptist Multicultural Ministries
Affiliation with ABCUSA (Check made payable to) _____
Mailing Address 1580 Massachusetts Avenue
Lexington, MA 02420
Phone 781-457-8858 Federal Tax ID# 27-2782979
Contact person Mar Imson email mar@mbmm.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 \$12,000

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

6. Your other funding source(s) current budget

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

08-26-2015

Printed Name/Title

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 Tina.Turner@abc-usa.org. Only electronic submissions will be accepted.



ABCUSA MATTHEW 25 GRANT

MASSACHUSETTS BAPTIST MULTICULTURAL MINISTRIES MISSION/VISION

The Massachusetts Baptist Multicultural Ministries (MBMM) seeks to weave God's love across cultures. The three-fold mission of MBMM includes culturally specific leadership development, intercultural relations, and refugee ministries. MBMM works toward these goals by: sponsoring ministers of ethnic origin who are seeking ordination within the American Baptist Churches (ABC) denomination and offering them cultural leadership development as well; providing training, courses, workshops and conferences for individuals, lay and pastoral leaders on multicultural awareness and sensitivity, intergenerational issues, Baptist polity, and ethics; and working to meet various needs of refugees in cultural adjustment and settlement.

MBMM originated in 2007 with a grant from Massachusetts Baptist Charitable Society to fund support of ethnic clergy in obtaining standing with the ABC. The outreach began immediately to bear fruit and, with many more needs emerged. In 2010 the Boston Baptist Social Union provided a major grant to expand MBMM's efforts to tend the soil of ethnic and refugee ministries.

Though MBMM's partnership with The American Baptist Churches of Massachusetts (TABCOM), its goals and activities are publicized to member churches throughout the state. Our partnership with The American Baptist Home Mission Societies allows us to further publicize our efforts and provides the opportunity to reach large groups through an annual intercultural conference. MBMM's quarterly publication, *The Loom*, also serves to share information and call others to action. Refugee advocates serve as public relations specialists that promote awareness, education and cultural respect in communities. All of this creates a strong regional and national network to strengthen the body of Christ through inclusive communities.

Massachusetts Baptist Multicultural Ministries Refugee Support

Refugees face an uphill battle in almost every respect. They often arrive to the area tired, confused, hungry and frightened. Many flee their home country because of military atrocities or civil wars and are placed in inner city low rent buildings that are all too often run-down and infested with bed bugs. The conditions make refugees, particularly the young vulnerable to drugs, gun culture and prostitution. Many refugees face the harsh New England winter for the first time and have neither the knowledge of how to dress for extreme cold or the resources (heavy coats, boots, gloves, etc.) to do so.

Since 2010, one of MBMM's top priorities has been working directly with refugee communities, through community-embedded refugee advocates, to help individuals and families: obtain basic living supplies; navigate the often complex and intimidating system of government benefits and support; increase sensitivity and communication with the larger community and relevant officials. MBMM is currently active in Somali, Burmese, Bhutanese, and Iraqi refugee communities.

We help settle approximately 5-6 refugee families each month by helping place them in housing, providing furniture, toiletries and other essential supplies in addition to connecting them with helpful community and state resources. Last year we purchased 500 winter blankets and distributed them to refugee families in need, in addition to distributing hundreds more donated items, including coats, blankets, boots, hats and gloves. ABCUSA Matthew 25 Grant funding will help us to provide even more blankets, a key item that is always in demand for surviving the brutal New England winter, to refugees in need.

The proposed grant funding of this program expansion will result in an invaluable increase of the number of refugees successfully settled in communities throughout Massachusetts. When refugees successfully integrate into the larger society, *all* benefit from the cultural enrichment and larger sense of community it creates.

MBMM seeks to embody the Christian principle of hospitality by addressing the inequity faced by refugees resettling in America. Throughout the bible, we are exhorted to "love the stranger" (Deuteronomy 10: 19) and care for "the least of these" (Matthew 25:40) in society. In giving life-sustaining supplies, MBMM's refugee advocacy efforts love and care for those most in need. By helping refugees thrive and become valued components of American Society, we are working towards embodying the "beloved community" (Acts 2:42-47, 4:32-37) in which we can fully pursue the command to "love our neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:39).

The award of this grant will further the mission of the ABCUSA Matthew 25 Grant program caring for the less fortunate so that the Kingdom of God can break forth in both our society as a whole and in the individual lives of vulnerable and marginalized.

And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'

Matthew 25:40

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**MASSACHUSETTS BAPTIST MULTICULTURAL MINISTRIES
BUDGET**

MBMM REFUGEE PROVISIONS BUDGET

Winter Supplies (toiletries, blankets, coats, etc.)	\$5,000
Lowell After School Program	\$2,000
MBMM Refugee Provisions	\$7,000

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Winter Blankets (160 at \$30/blanket)	\$4,800
Truck Rental for Delivery	\$200
Matthew 25 Refugee Provisions	\$5,000

TOTAL REFUGEE PROVISIONS \$12,000