

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 Urban Grace Church
Affiliation with ABCUSA Was First Baptist Church of Tacoma (ABCUSA) until 2005, still affiliated with Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches
Address 902 Market Street, Tacoma, WA 98402
Phone 253-272-2184 Federal Tax ID# 91-0577139
Contact person Jennifer Dean email jdean@urbangracetacoma.org

2. Please submit with your application a copy of:

- Your mission statement (**see attached**)
- 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**)

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 \$8000-\$9000/year

5. Amount being requested from the ABCUSA Matthew 25 Grant \$5000

6. Your other funding source(s) Individual donors, various local non-profits

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) Jennifer Dean Date 8/20/14
Printed Name/Title Jennifer Dean / Director of Operations

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.



Mission Statement:

To DEVELOP and to BE a church in downtown Tacoma that serves the city and its people by proclaiming the Good News of God's love, grace, and justice revealed in Jesus Christ.

Community Breakfast Program Budget

Income

Individuals	\$ 9,500.00
Organizations	\$ 1,000.00
Other	\$ 500.00
TOTAL	\$ 11,000.00

Expenses

Food & Supplies	\$ 9,000.00
Community Outreach	\$ 500.00
Administration	\$ 100.00
TOTAL	\$ 9,600.00

NET DIFFERENCE	\$ 1,400.00
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How do you plan to use the requested funds? How will the funds specifically assist individuals battling poverty and its effects?

Our location in downtown Tacoma provides us with the unique opportunity to minister to and provide services for a diverse community of people. Our central location also makes us easily accessible to those who are in need of the basic necessities of food, shelter, and clothing within our community. We believe that God compels us to enact a radical compassion within our city, for the Lord states that "If you spend yourselves on behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed then your light will rise in the darkness and your night will become like the noonday." *Isaiah 58:10*

We enact our desire to be a light within our city through the provision of various services and programs. One such program is our Sunday morning Community Breakfast which has functioned successfully since 1995. In spite of often limited funds and resources, we open our doors every Sunday morning to approximately 300+ people including adult men and women as well as many young adults and children. Our guests are hungry for sustenance and community. With a team of volunteers from our church and other churches in the area such as Peninsula Baptist and Grace Baptist, a free, hearty and hot breakfast is served along with fellowship, conversation and even songs led by one of the guests on occasion. During the colder months, we have often also provided donated blankets and socks to our guests. Throughout the year, volunteer groups collect items such as hygiene supplies, etc. that are also given out. Many of the breakfast guests also seek spiritual nourishment and attend our worship services as well.

The breakfast provides a rare opportunity to have so many homeless and low income in one room, so we partner with local organizations to help resource individuals towards assistance from DSHS and other social service agencies from whom they can receive tools that can assist them in getting out of their current situation. We have recently formed a partnership with University of Washington-Tacoma in which a foot care clinic will be provided once per month to care for the serious foot needs of the homeless that are often wearing ill-fitting shoes and walking for hours on end.

Though a crucial program of our church, the Community Breakfast has never been a line item in our general church budget. The generous donations of church and community members as well as grants and bequests have kept this program running for almost 20 years. Our coordinators are very frugal and food is frequently donated as well. There has not been a Sunday missed in 19 years due to lack of funding, but it has been tough at times.

Because the Community Breakfast Program uses most of its limited funds on food, we've had to make do with ageing equipment and space. Our church was built in 1925 and though we are very grateful for its "good bones," there are many areas of the church that desperately need updates. One of these areas is our south entrance, which welcomes all of our breakfast guests each week. This space is also the waiting area for another nonprofit in our building, Pregnancy Aid, which serves pregnant women and mothers of young children who are in need of food, clothing and health supplies. Currently, this entrance is a dark space with threadbare, stained carpet and bad lighting. Especially in our rainy months (which for us in the NW is a good portion of the year), the area is impossible to keep clean with over 300 sets of wet shoes coming in and out each week. We seek to be a place of welcome and hospitality to all who enter our building and feel this space could use much improvement in order to meet this goal.

In the last year we have seen a steady increase in attendance of the breakfast. This has compounded the need for additional tables and chairs in order to serve our breakfast guests comfortably and at full capacity. Because of the amount of use of these tables and chairs, we are often spending limited staff time on fixing broken parts or moving them around the church because there are not enough in any one space to also serve our Community Breakfast needs. Increasing our total number of tables and chairs would save time and wear and tear on this equipment.

Funds received from the ABCUSA Matthew 25 grant would be used to offset the costs of food and direct service supplies so that we can use other income to add to the current tables and chairs as well as update the flooring, lighting and paint in our south entrance space. These projects would greatly increase our efficiency each Sunday and help us to sustain a ministry of hospitality, welcome and resources in the coming months and years.

The Community Breakfast Program meets a vital need in our community. Since 1995, the amount of homeless and low income in Tacoma has increased, causing even more strain on local social service agencies. As a church, providing this one meal a week and giving people access to resources helps us to contribute to alleviating those in poverty in our neighborhoods. Over the years, a community of volunteers and guests has developed and many would call it a family. This program provides more than just food. Not only are our community partnerships providing resources to help alleviate poverty, but it gives volunteers a purpose beyond themselves and guests dignity and a fellowship of friends to come home to each week.