

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 a direct relationship with American Baptist Churches USA to be eligible to apply, and only one application per church or Region will be considered per 12 month period. Grant funds may not be used to fund staff positions or for capital improvements to facilities. Grant awards will be sent to the ABC church or Region, checks will not be made payable to an individual or ministry.

1. General Information

Church or Region:

Region Affiliation with ABCUSA:

Ministry or Group receiving these funds:

Mailing Address:

Phone:

Federal Tax ID#:

Contact person:

Email:

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

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

5. Total cost of the project:

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

7. Your other funding source(s):

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/photos within six months of receipt of the grant.

Application submitted by:

Date:

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; September 1 for grants distributed on October 15
- Completed applications should be sent via email to Tina.Turner@abc-usa.org. Only electronic submissions will be accepted.

See the following information and instructions for more details.

Mission Statement

JOYA Scholars is a ministry of Epic Church that seeks to inspire and prepare students from low-income families of Fullerton to succeed through higher education. Our mission is to break the cycle of poverty one student at a time. The Garnet Neighborhood in the City of Fullerton, California is a five-block community consisting of mostly low-income Latino families. It is marked by one startling statistic: there had been no college graduates to emerge from Garnet in over ten years. While serving in the neighborhood, we discovered that there were students in the community who desired to go to college, but believed they lacked the necessary resources to make that dream a reality. JOYA Scholars was created to address this need by providing key supportive services to prepare students from the Garnet Neighborhood for higher education. These services aim to develop first-generation students from working-class families into college-ready scholars by their senior year of high school. We understand that college-preparation starts early, and we begin working with seventh grade students who desire to go to college. Today, our college-preparation program has made way for our graduated scholars to attend schools like Chapman University, University of California Irvine, California State University Fullerton, University of California Riverside, and more.



Financial Statement for Ministry

The tables below represent the annual budget for JOYA Scholars. The first table shows each expense for the services we provide for our students and their families. They are calculated to cover enough for 22 students on an annual basis, since we currently have 22 students in JOYA Scholars. The second table shows our sources of income; which include the annual earnings from grants, monthly donors, and Epic Church gift offerings.

Expense	Amount
High School Programming	\$1,800
Junior High School Programming	\$1,800
College Visits	\$1,250
Cultural Outing	\$500
ACT Preparation	\$1,000
SAT Preparation	\$1,000
Test-Taking Materials	\$500
High School Parent Academy	\$1,500
Junior High School Parent Academy	\$1,500
Facility Rent	\$12,000
Summer Programs and Workshops	\$900
Skills-Building Workshops	\$1,050
Materials and Supplies	\$600
Volunteer Appreciation	\$500
Total	\$25,900.00

Income	Amount
Epic Church Offering	\$2,500
Opus Bank Foundation	\$4,000
Honda Grant	\$500
Donors	\$16,800
Total	\$23,800.00

Continued Response for Question 3: How we plan to use the requested funds

... workshops will continue to be offered. These programs are designed to provide students from the Garnet Neighborhood with significant forms of support and guidance to prepare them for a college education.

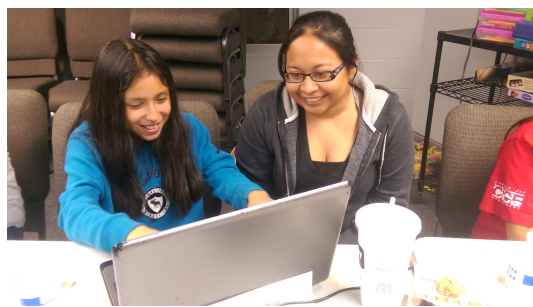
Mentoring

Funds received from the Matthew 25 grant will specifically allow our students to be guided and supported through one-on-one mentoring. A popular misconception is that working-class students who succeed in college do so as a result of sheer individual determination and hard work. According to Dr. Roberta Espinoza, a professor of sociology at Pitzer College, Claremont, Calif., and author of “Pivotal Moments: How Educators Can Put All Students on the Path to College” (Harvard Education Press, 2011), nothing can be further from the truth:

“Low-income minority students who overcome obstacles to achieve academic success usually encounter at least one college-educated adult in their schooling who takes the initiative to reach out to them and provide concrete academic guidance.”

By supporting students through one-on-one mentoring, JOYA Scholars comes alongside junior high and high school students to fill a relational and knowledge gap for students and their families for whom the school system can be a confusing and intimidating process to navigate. Our mentor meetings are a crucial component for the long-term success of our students, since guidance is not always provided at home (though we are changing this by offering Parent Academy for our parents). Mentors and students meet bi-weekly at these meetings to set academic goals, discuss future career opportunities, and develop a mentor-student relationship built on trust. Each student is paired with his or her own mentor that offers encouragement, support, guidance, and accountability.

Upon interviewing Cristian Flores (11th grade Scholar) who has been mentored by Tyler Gehring for three



Stephanie Hernandez (right) with her mentor Maria Guzman (left)

years, he expressed that Tyler is like an older brother to him. Aidee Rosales, a graduated scholar who now attends California State University, Fullerton still enjoys a mentor relationship with her JOYA Scholars mentor, Maria Guzman, whom she met when she was in 8th grade. Maria enjoyed mentoring Aidee so much that she decided to come back to mentor another junior high student named, Stephanie and continue on the cycle. Yet another student named Sarai Hernandez, commented, “my mentor calmed my doubts and believed in me.” These student testimonies

tell us that the mentor relationships that begin at JOYA Scholars go beyond just filling a knowledge gap, but also give students faith to believe in themselves. This confidence is necessary for students to endure the hardships they face everyday as they fight to beat the odds against them by being the very first in

their families to go to college. The Matthew 25 grant will aid JOYA Scholars in continuing to connect students with mentors who will inspire and prepare them during mentor meetings.

Tutoring

The Matthew 25 grant will pave the way for one-on-one tutoring to take place. Given the large classroom settings in the Placentia-Yorba Linda School District (PYLUSD), our students lack the attention and accountability that is essential to the success of first-generation college students. Experience tells us that without academic support and a plan for higher education, students from low-income communities are more susceptible to dropping out of high school, affiliating with gang life and qualifying for only low-paying work. In JOYA Scholars, each student is tutored individually, having the full attention of his or her own tutor for 2-3 hours per week in the student's desired subjects. Students are asked which subjects they need extra support in, and dedicated tutors come each week to help their students. During tutoring, students receive the one-on-one attention they lack in the classroom. The tutoring sessions are tailored to meet the unique needs of each student. Tutors work closely with their students to target specific weak points, set academic goals, and increase their overall understanding of the subject material. Tutors provide accountability, encouragement, and a model of perseverance and determination necessary to succeed in school and life.

Our scholars significantly benefit from tutoring. Fernando Hipolito, 8th grader at Tuffree Middle School, stated in an interview, "I have never had my grades be as high as they are. Tutoring has helped me



increase my grades from mostly C's to B's and even A's." Juan Jimenez, a 10th grader at El Dorado High School, struggled in Chemistry. His first and second quarter progress report revealed his struggles when he earned a 72%. After Juan began tutoring in JOYA Scholars, his Chemistry tutor worked with him each week to increase his understanding of Chemistry. By the end of first semester, Juan earned the Eureka Award at El Dorado for Chemistry, and earned a 93% in the course. Funds from the Matthew 25 grant will allow for more students like Juan to continue receiving free academic tutoring services throughout the entire school year.

Juan Jimenez (11th grader)

College Visits

Another specific plan JOYA Scholars has to use the Matthew 25 Grant is to provide college visits for our students. By taking all our 22 students and their mentors to three college visits per school year, students will identify their particular college and career aspirations. College campus tours, personalized college visits, college list planning, and college major and career exploration will provide the students with the inspiration and preparation to succeed. For example, prior to becoming a JOYA Scholar, our students had never set foot on a college campus.

Although California State University, Fullerton is within walking distance from the Garnet Neighborhood, students had never visited. Visiting different college campuses helps students learn about the different admission requirements at each institution. It also provides more motivation for our students to succeed. One of our students who struggled to maintain the minimum Grade Point Average of a 3.0, admitted that after visiting Cal Poly Pomona, he realized he was not working his absolute hardest: "I will work very hard now because I want to go to school here very badly." Seeing the college campuses gives students the extra push they need to envision their dream of going to college, and make it a reality.



Fall College Visit to California Polytechnic State University, Pomona

Skills-building workshops

Skills-building workshops help students to develop more self-awareness, skills to succeed in school, and a comprehensive understanding of the college application and registration process. Workshops have included financial aid, college "match-making," goal setting, organization skills, career assessment, writing personal statements, and reading workshops, among others. These workshops are valuable for students because they provide the tools to enhance their educational profiles.

Continued Response for Question 4: How will the funds assist individuals battling poverty and its effects?

...our students can break the cycle of poverty. The Garnet Neighborhood in the City of Fullerton, California is made up of five small blocks where more than 1,200 low-income children from working class

immigrant families make their home. This neighborhood, in the middle of one of the wealthiest counties in the country, is marked by gang violence, drug and alcohol abuse, teenage pregnancy, and high school drop out rates. JOYA Scholars seeks to affect and impact this community by fostering a college-going culture in the midst of all the poverty and demographics that exist in this neighborhood.

JOYA Scholars represents a new model of cooperation that is paving a new way forward in the intersection of the church, neighborhood, non-profit, civic, and educational sectors to address education, health, and well-being of working class families. We are in partnership with others and are involved in changing the landscape of education in the district and city. JOYA Scholars has support of principals of the various schools in the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District, mayor of Fullerton, local universities, and recognized by the school board and city council. The city of Fullerton recognizes JOYA Scholars as a noteworthy program that is successfully assisting individuals who battle poverty and its effects.

In 2014, JOYA Scholar Valeria Sosa became Garnet's first college graduate, completing a bachelor's degree in political science from Chapman University in just three years. She is currently attending Western State College of Law, and employed at a local law firm. When JOYA Scholars began in 2009, not a single high school student from Garnet aside from Valeria was eligible for a four-year university, forcing high school graduates to take minimum wage jobs. Today, there are students enrolled at University of California Irvine, University of California Riverside, and California State University Fullerton that are on their way to attaining secure employment. We only hope to continue on this cycle of success for our students. Our aim is to develop highly skilled members of society who will have a promising future for themselves and their families.
