

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	<u>FOCUS Churches of Albany, Inc.</u>
Affiliation with ABCUSA	<u>Emmanuel Baptist Church is a founding member and active partner. FOCUS is located in their facility.</u>
Address	<u>275 State St., Albany NY 12210</u>
Phone <u>(518) 443-0460</u>	Federal Tax ID# <u>30-0257933</u>
Contact person <u>Rev. Debra Jameson</u>	email <u>revdeb@focuschurches.net</u>

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 \$3,950

5. Amount being requested from the ABCUSA Matthew 25 Grant \$1,250

6. Your other funding source(s) individual donors, other denominational grant requests, and a local community foundation.

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 2/27/2015

Rev. Debra Jameson

Printed Name/Title Rev. Debra Jameson, Executive Director of Community Ministry

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.



FOCUS Mission Statement:

We celebrate, as the FOCUS Churches, our common calling to be God's servant people in a broken and hurting world.

We honor the uniqueness of our member congregations with their diversity of gifts, separate histories, and God-given resources.

We acknowledge that we need to learn from one another, to be enriched by one another's vision of Christian faithfulness, and to join in those areas of Christian mission where we can work more effectively together than by ourselves.

We recognize that our urban location, close to the raw edges of human need, as well as the center of political power, defines the primary thrust of our common mission.

We believe that we are called by God to discern amid the many shapes of need and pain around us, the design of Christ's mandate for our shared ministry.

We covenant, therefore, with God and with one another:

- to engage in a search for faithful and effective forms of ministry;
- to provide a ministry of presence, support, and advocacy for the victims of society's injustice and neglect;
- to speak the truth in places of power on behalf of the powerless;
- to offer new possibilities of wholeness to the lonely and alienated;
- to equip ourselves for the service of Christ through joint educational and community-building ventures; and,
- to celebrate in worship the meaning of our shared mission.

We commit to these purposes our prayers, our time, our talent, and our material resources with the hope that our life and work together in this time and place will demonstrate the liberating and reconciling power of the gospel.

2015 Budget for FOCUS Food Empowerment Project:

2015 Income

Appeal (actual) 1,000
Grants: ABC Matthew 25 (requested) 1,250
UCC Neighbors In Need (requested) 1,250
Community Foundation (local) 500

TOTAL INCOME: \$4,000

2015 Expenses

GIAB – Kids, materials 700
GIAB – Pantry Households, materials 700
Community Harvest Garden 250
Food Demonstrations 250
Staffing: 1,850
Promotion 200

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$3,950

FOCUS Churches of Albany is a faith based non-profit established in 1967. The ecumenical membership is comprised of 7 covenant churches, including Emmanuel Baptist Church. The Baptist congregation also provides a home base for the FOCUS administrative offices and the FOCUS Interfaith Food Pantry. Emmanuel Baptist provides 3 members to the governing body and has many parishioners who volunteer in FOCUS programs.

How do you plan to use the requested funds? How will the funds specifically assist individuals battling poverty and its effects?

Over the last 3 years this project has gained exciting momentum.

Our Goal: We will strengthen families to have more control over access to fresh produce, and the ability to grow vegetables and enjoy locally grown produce. The project goal is to empower low income individuals in Albany, who experience food insecurity, to learn how to grow, cook, and have access to and choices for an adequate supply of safe, nutritious, and appropriate food items.

FOCUS Food Empowerment Project will reach for our goal through 3 specific components:

1. Gardening In A Bucket – Seed and Seedling Distribution (GIAB). 350 households have access to resources at our daily food pantry. GIAB provides a clay pot with drainage holes, organic dirt and assorted vegetable seedlings, along with hands-on instructions. Pantry guests may obtain more than 1 pot. We will also provide a seasonal Seed and Seedling distribution among pantry guests and distribute 500 seedlings and 100 seed packets.

Gardening in A Bucket – For Kids! is geared toward 7-12 year olds. Staff and volunteers teach kids about urban gardening with hands-on participation. Outreach is done to youth in surrounding urban neighborhoods, low income children in homeless shelters and city schools. Last season we took the planting event to 2 homeless shelters, 3 elementary schools and an urban day camp. We will provide 100 kids 200 seedlings and potting accessories.

2. Food Demonstrations will be conducted weekly at the pantry site. Our local cooperative extension will provide expert cooking and nutrition seminars that utilize locally grown foods. 100 participants will take home food items and recipes.
3. FOCUS Community Harvest Garden is a 600 square foot plot that is utilized for community, production, and harvest. Operating from April to October providing guests and volunteers experience in planning, planting, nurturing and harvesting 700 lbs. of produce for distribution at the Food Pantry.

FOCUS will also continue to offer households information and referrals to federal nutrition assistance programs and other local assistance programs; advocate for just and fair public policies to improve the programs that support those in need of food assistance, and similarly, policies that empower economic security for those living in poverty.

The Matthew 25 grant money will be used specifically for materials needed in each of the 3 areas of the project.