Grants to Faith-Based Organizations

The Winston-Salem Foundation funds faith-based organizations (churches, synagogues, mosques) when the organization is providing a social service and when the nature of the grant application is appropriate for Foundation funding. The Foundation tries to remain neutral, however, as to religious beliefs.

The Grantmaking Policy of The Winston-Salem Foundation states: “We do not make grants for religious activities that serve only the members of a single congregation or promote a particular religious doctrine.” For example, the Foundation could make a grant to a church for an adult day care center or an after-school tutoring program serving the broad community, but not for a vacation Bible school or religious training.

The Foundation will consider making grants to religious organizations that are:

1. Committed to community service that is not primarily for spreading religious beliefs or for recruiting new members.
2. Primarily serving the wider community, beyond their own members.
3. Led by a broad group of volunteer leaders who take decision-making and financial responsibility for the project.
4. Providing financial support for the proposed project, in addition to the financial support that they are requesting from the Foundation.

NOTE: Equipment and other capital requests are a low priority for Foundation funding.