

dare to

dream

THE ANN BANCROFT FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2007, ISSUE 17

MNCREW and Ann Bancroft Foundation Celebrate “Women Run the Cities”

Congratulations to all who participated in the first annual MNCREW (Minnesota Commercial Real Estate Women) Women Run the Cities run/walk which took place on Sept. 23. Nearly 1,000 women and girls came together at Minnehaha Park to take part. The Ann Bancroft Foundation was the event’s charity partner, and the majority of the proceeds will benefit the foundation’s Dare to Dream migrant program.

Early dawn of race day found Ann Bancroft Foundation and MNCREW volunteers attempting to set up in semi-darkness. The MNCREW contingent was well prepared for the task, and soon miniature spotlights dotted the park. All aspects of the event were equally well planned. Veteran runners commented that they had never seen a first-time race run so smoothly, and attract such a large field of runners. Co-chairs Meghan Huber and Mary Sands and their large “crew” of volunteers did a great job of planning, publicizing and carrying out the entire event.

It was a perfect day for runners and walkers of all ages and skill levels. Events included a one-mile run, a 5K run/walk and a 10-mile run. The race attracted some well known women runners, including Olympic hopefuls and master runners. MNCREW plans to make the run an annual event to encourage a healthy, active lifestyle and promote networking among professional women in the real estate industry.



Ann Bancroft and board member Sharon Olson



Board members Joan Higinbotham, Jan Malcolm, Ann Bancroft, Lisa Simer and Amy Crawford



Ann Bancroft with event co-chairs Mary Sands and Meghan Huber

Letter From the Co-chair



It's hard to believe that summer has sped by, the leaves have fallen and the birds are settling into their winter homes farther south. I always feel a little tinge of sadness as the seasons change because, as the days grow shorter, it seems as if the pace of activities accelerates and life feels more frenzied.

Even though you have not heard from us recently, the board has not been lazing away the summer — we have been very busy! Since spring, we have recruited three new board members, provided 36 girls with minigrants and created a strategic plan for evaluating the impact of the past 10 years of grant making. We also wrote our first proposal to a foundation, which helped us to secure the funding to carry out the activities in the plan.

Last fall, when we learned that Kathy Bardins, our long-time event and foundation coordinator, was moving to Michigan, we decided to turn this twist of fate into an opportunity to look at how and why we do what we do, build the internal capacity of our organization and thoughtfully chart our future course. We also decided that to give our capacity building work the attention it required, we would need to commit our time and resources to this task. We decided that in 2007 we would not hold an awards event and, instead, would work on three strategic goals: build the internal capacity of the organization (assess board, data management, staffing needs), evaluate the impact of our minigrants on the recipients, and expand our capacity to reach more girls by expanding our circle of funders and friends.

So what are we doing and where are we going? I am excited about the progress we have made. This spring we added three wonderful new board members (Amy Crawford, Sharon Olson and Kath Sharp) who have brought us new energy, new ideas, and new skills. We wrote a strategic plan to guide us in assessing the impact of our minigrant program and this plan will include convening past award and minigrant recipients. We recruited two unbelievable volunteers who helped us acquire hardware and software and complete a database conversion (a world of thanks to Deb Chaulk and Cynthia Hendricks). We received our very first grant from a foundation (Otto Bremer) to support our capacity building initiative, and we have requests pending with other foundations. We introduced scores of new friends to the foundation and raised new dollars to support our minigrants through the first annual Women Run the Cities race. The race attracted more than 1,000 participants, many of whom learned about the Ann Bancroft Foundation for the first time. It also helped to forge a relationship with MNCREW that we hope will continue and grow in the future. Wow! What a summer!

And as we move to the end of 2007, we are keeping up the pace! We have some new fundraising activities on tap — including a series of house parties. These events are designed to help us tell our story to new audiences. The first party was held on October 11, and was a great success. Others are in the works for early next year. We hope that the new friends we meet through these activities will yield not only new financial support, but new volunteers and other resources as well. We will award a second round of minigrants later in November. Planning is underway for our 2008 Ann Bancroft Awards Celebration. Stay tuned for details!

As excited as we are by the new friends we have met through the spring and summer and the possibilities that lie ahead for the Ann Bancroft Foundation, we are incredibly grateful for the loyal friends who have supported us from our early days. We hope you will continue to walk with us, so that girls throughout Minnesota can continue to dare to dream. We know that the foundation has opened the door to some unique and powerful opportunities for young girls and women. Thank you for all you do — together we can continue to support and encourage girls to pursue their dreams. Your support makes a difference.

In friendship,

Lisa Simer

Lisa Simer

Co-chair, Board of Directors

DARE TO
DREAM

A large, stylized blue graphic that combines the words "DARE TO" and "DREAM". "DARE TO" is in a smaller, bold, sans-serif font above "DREAM", which is in a larger, bold, sans-serif font. A long, flowing blue line extends from the end of "DREAM" across the right side of the page.

Table of Contents

- 2 Letter From the Co-chair
- 3 Spotlight
- 4 House Party!
- 5 Foundation News
- 6 Minigrants: Dreams Coming True
- 7 Contributors List

Publisher:
Ann Bancroft Foundation

Editor:
Joan Higinbotham

Writers:
Kitty Higinbotham
Lisa Simer

Graphic Design:
d.trio marketing group

Articles, letters and comments are welcome.

Address written material to:
The Ann Bancroft Foundation
Dare to Dream Newsletter
808 14th Avenue S.E.
Minneapolis, MN 55414-1516
www.annbancroftfoundation.org
Phone: 612-676-9484
Fax: 612-676-9401

If you are interested in becoming a writer for this newsletter, please contact Joan Higinbotham at 651-292-1551.

Board of Directors:

Ann Bancroft: Founder
Educator/explorer/lecturer

Joan Higinbotham: Co-chair
Consultant

Lisa Simer: Co-chair
Program Officer,
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota Foundation

Donna Biedron: Secretary
Dental Hygienist

Kath Sharp: Treasurer
MacPhail Center for Music Finance Team

Carrie Bancroft
Teacher

Amy Crawford
Executive Director,
The Jay and Rose Phillips Family Foundation

Sally Johnson
Vice President, Risk Management and Education,
The Church Pension Group

Jan Malcolm
CEO, The Courage Center

Marty Mumma
President, Dare to Soar! Coaching, LLC

Sharon Olson
Partner, Olson Weiss, LLC

Ann Bancroft Foundation Board Member Spotlight: Amy Crawford



Amy Crawford has been involved in volunteering and giving back to the community since childhood, having grown up in a family always focused on how to use its resources to benefit others. In her professional career working within philanthropic organizations, she has directed her own skills and resources to make a difference on a larger scale.

In serving as executive director of The Jay and Rose Phillips Family Foundation for the past four years, she has continued to build on those early experiences in leading the foundation in its mission of sharing resources for the public good while exercising leadership and flexibility in responding to emerging community needs.

Though only recently confirmed in her role as a board member for the Ann Bancroft Foundation, Crawford has been involved with the organization from its inception. She has known Ann Bancroft for more than 20 years and is one of the many friends who helped the foundation take shape and grow over the years through its award dinners and minigrant program.

"I was touched and awed by Ann's first trip to the Pole," says Crawford. "What an amazing journey it was for her – to have the courage to follow her dreams and participate in an expedition that broke barriers for women explorers.

Grown out of the same spirit, the foundation attracted me because of its focus on empowering girls to believe in themselves and to realize that they have unlimited potential. It puts an emphasis on how to be deliberate and intentional in setting goals.

"Through the minigrant and awards programs, it shines a spotlight on the fact that it's OK to acknowledge that you do have dreams and that when you put your dreams out there, others will believe in you, too. Once you begin saying out loud the things that are most important to you, that process attracts others to believe in you, and it takes you places you've never been before."

Crawford sees the Ann Bancroft Foundation growing in its ability to reach out to more girls through its minigrant program. She anticipates partnering with other groups that can provide support and enhance the effectiveness of the foundation. Using evaluative feedback from minigrant winners, she and other board members will continue to refine the program to improve the foundation's ability to reach out to girls facing multiple barriers to reaching their dreams.

"It's important to realize that an individual can make a difference, and by working together as a team you can create new opportunities for others," adds Crawford. "The Ann Bancroft Foundation is a great way to meet other people with similar interests and who are supportive of girls and women in the community."

Amy and her partner, Alice Johnson, live with their 14-year-old daughter, Cara, in South Minneapolis and are involved in community activities, especially those focused around girls' sports and performing arts. As a family, the three enjoy travel, music and cooking.

House Party!

If you are interested in hosting a house party to benefit the Ann Bancroft Foundation, please contact us!

The invitation to the first in a series of house parties benefiting the Ann Bancroft Foundation read, “casual dress, Gortex optional,” and though no Gortex was spotted, there was an abundance of enthusiastic guests and excellent refreshments. Hosts Katy Ullsperger and Rebecca Groulx Irmer invited their neighbors, members of their book club, college pals, gourmet cooking group participants and other friends to join them and learn more about the Ann Bancroft Foundation.

Ann talked to the group about her background in education and her interest in encouraging all young people, and especially young girls, to dream dreams, to challenge themselves. She talked about her own girlhood and said how fortunate she was to have parents who encouraged her to take risks, try out new things, and not give up on her dreams. The Dare to Dream minigrant program is the foundation’s vehicle for supporting girls and their dreams.

Kia Lor, a recipient of a minigrant, talked about how the grant opened new vistas for her. She said the grant not only helped her financially, but it also taught her to persevere in order to reach her dreams and inspired her to raise the additional funds she needed. She traveled to French Guiana with a Girl Scout group, and now she is saving and planning for another trip as a part of Habitat for Humanity, confident, she says, that she can make this dream a reality, too.

Board members who attended the house party said it was a very enjoyable evening, a successful fundraiser, and a great way to introduce people to the work of the foundation. The foundation is looking for additional house party opportunities. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact the foundation for more details.



Ann, Lisa Simer and Kia Lor



Joan Higinbotham, Kia Lor, Ann, Rebecca Groulx Irmer and Katy Ullsperger



Ann with Rebecca Groulx Irmer and Katy Ullsperger

Ann Bancroft Foundation Receives Grant

The trustees of the Otto Bremer Foundation recently announced that the Ann Bancroft Foundation was approved for a grant of \$25,000. The Otto Bremer Foundation is a charitable trust that authorizes grants to nonprofit organizations in Minnesota, North Dakota and Wisconsin.

The Bremer funds will be used in part to develop a plan to evaluate the successful Dare to Dream minigrant program, which makes small grants available to girls age 10 to grade

10. Proposed activities include convening the girls who received minigrants and interviewing the mentors who worked with them to learn more about the difference the grants have made in the lives of the girls who received them. The balance of the grant funds will be used for capacity building as the foundation implements its recently completed strategic plan.

Ann Bancroft Foundation 10th-Anniversary Awards

The Ann Bancroft Foundation celebrated 10 years of leadership and achievement by girls and women at its September, 2006 gala held at Orchestra Hall. The hundreds of guests mingled with past award recipients and were among the first to view a retrospective exhibition of photographs by well-known Twin Cities' photographer Ann Marsden.

The foundation honored four recipients at the celebration.



Latasha Robinson for leadership and achievement by a girl. In order to solve problems non-violently, Latasha, a student at Washburn High School in Minneapolis, put together a successful mediation program for students at her school. The Washburn students went on to train Anthony Middle School students in the same peacemaking techniques.



Justice Rosalie Wahl for leadership and achievement by a woman. Rosalie, the first woman appointed to the Minnesota Supreme Court, has been a tireless advocate for women and the disadvantaged all her life. Her example of fearless advocacy has made her a role model for other women, who have been inspired to work for change in their communities and the wider world.



Verna Cornelia Price for support for girls and women by an individual. Verna's unique mentoring program, Girls in Action, has led to a significant decline in suspensions, fights and disruptive behavior among girls at North High School. Her work to develop positive role

models encourages girls to make good choices in school and in life.



Perspectives, Inc. for organizational support for girls and women. For 30 years Perspectives, Inc. has provided opportunity and support to create hope and help for the homeless and chemically dependent. Its work has helped women and their families turn their lives around and return to the social and economic mainstream.

Plans are underway for the 11th Ann Bancroft Awards Celebration, to be held in spring of 2008. Details on date and location will be available soon on the foundation's web site www.annbancroftfoundation.org where you can also indicate your interest in being part of the planning committee.

Minigrants: Dreams Coming True

Learning how to care for a horse, going on a winter camping trip, taking voice lessons, visiting another state or country, improving volleyball skills. These are just some of the dreams that came true for young girls through the Dare to Dream program of the Ann Bancroft Foundation. The program makes minigrants (\$100 to \$500) to girls age 10 to grade 10 who want to improve a skill, challenge themselves by trying a new activity or pursue a long-held dream. Many of the girls are made aware of the program by a mentor, who may be a family friend, a teacher or counselor or social worker. The mentors help the girls with the application process and, along with the girl, provide feedback to the foundation about the experience.

Founder Ann Bancroft recalls the opportunities she had to follow her dreams, and she sees the grants as a vehicle for young girls to try new activities, to grow in self-esteem and make better choices in their lives. These results are reflected in the reports the foundation receives from the girls and their mentors. Singing lessons provided a marked increase in self-confidence for one girl. Another talked about how receiving the grant made her realize that she had the potential to set goals for her future and achieve them.

Many of the girls talked of the excitement of attending sports camps where they improved their skills and developed a new sense of teamwork by working with more

experienced players. Kelsey Saralampi of Esko, Minn. traveled with her softball team to Florida to participate in spring training scrimmages. Kelsey commented, "This experience really gave me a lot of confidence. ...I think I'll use it the rest of my life. I learned it is possible for anyone to step up and make a big play for the team."

Kia Lor, a young Hmong woman from St. Paul, used her grant to travel with members of her Girl Scout troop to meet Hmong girls whose families had settled in French Guiana. The trip gave her insight into a very different culture, which made her more appreciative of her life in Minnesota. Kia and her St. Paul friends had an opportunity to return the hospitality they received when their friends from French Guiana visited Minnesota.

The spring 2008 round of minigrants opens February 1. Visit annbancroftfoundation.org for more information.

Since the Dare to Dream minigrant program began in 2001, the foundation has given out more than \$262,000 to 722 girls. The foundation sends information about the program to schools, mentoring organizations and social service agencies, and grant recipients come from all parts of Minnesota. The fall 2007 grant round has just ended, and the spring 2008 round will open February 1 and close April 1. Information and a Dare to Dream minigrant application are available on the foundation's web site (www.annbancroftfoundation.com).



Kelsey Saralampi (third from left in back row) and her softball team

Contributions from January 1, 2007, through September 20, 2007. Thank you!

Individual Donors

Sarah Andersen
Debbie and Dick Bancroft
Connie Barry
Thomas Brust
Dorothea and Clifton Burns
Michele Buss
Richard Carroll
Jane and Joe Cavanaugh
Robert Donnenberg
Marie Dotseth
Barbara Fleig
Mary Forbes
Edward Foster
Barbara Gerolimatos and Alan Brown
Heidi Gesell
Nancy Gruver and Joe Kelly
The Charles M. Harrington Fund
of the Minneapolis Foundation
Lucy and Jeff Heegaard
Diane and John Herman
Joan Higinbotham

John Howard
Jean Inglehart
Carol Iwata
Tami Jensen
Sally Johnson and Kay Kramer
Phyllis Kahn
Marlene and Tom Kayser
Margaret Kelsch
Greg Lais and Patty Thurber
Sally and Richard Leider
John Levy
Kimberly Lund
Wendy Lutter
Roderick Mackenzie
Jan Malcolm
Connie Manske
Nancy Martin
Beatrice Mumma
Marty Mumma
Linda Nienaber
K.A. O'Donnell
Alan and Diane Sims Page

Sally and Tom Patterson
Janet Rice
Joe Selvaggio
Marsha A. Shotley
Lee Sheehy
Lisa Simer
Ruth and David Waterbury

In memory of Julia Berg

Daniel Berg and Welcome Jerde

Foundations and Corporations

Imation Corporation
The Otto Bremer Foundation

We apologize for any errors or omissions that may have occurred in this listing as a result of transitions in our staff. If you have corrections or concerns, please contact the foundation.

dream
dare to



Inside:
Update from the Co-chair
Our First House Party
Foundation News

The Ann Bancroft Foundation Newsletter
808 14th Avenue S.E.
Minneapolis, MN 55414-1516



PRSR1 STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
MINNEAPOLIS MN
PERMIT NO 894