



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Join Us For: *VOICES***

**The Ann Bancroft Foundation's 2018 Annual Celebration**

***Event Supports Local Girls Finding Their Voices and Reaching Their Full Potential!***

**Thursday April 19, 2018**

MINNEAPOLIS, MN (March 20, 2018) The Ann Bancroft Foundation (ABF) invites you to celebrate more than 20 years of helping girls reach their full potential as inspired by founder and world-renowned polar explorer Ann Bancroft. *Voices*, ABF's Annual Celebration, presented by TCF Financial Corporation, is an evening dedicated to providing Minnesota girls the tools they need to go after their dreams and feel supported along the way.

Since 1997, ABF has awarded \$1,556,847 to 4,203 girls from age five through high school graduation. Through the program, girls are connected with mentors who provide guidance, encouragement and friendship at a critical time in their lives. The grants are investments of up to \$500 that have immediate and lasting impact. ABF grants have funded a wide range of activities and experiences from piano lessons to AAU basketball camps to expenses for a trip to Nicaragua where Isla Horscroft from Chanhassen recently led a soccer clinic for other girls. See the full story [here](#).

"Experience has so much power," says Ann Bancroft. "It can help us connect to the world around us when we're feeling so disconnected or so lost. It doesn't have to be big. It doesn't have to be expensive. But it can change everything. It can change the way the world spins for a young girl. This is exactly what our granting programs do."

*VOICES*, ABF's 2018 Anniversary Celebration will be Thursday, April 19th from 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. at the Renaissance Minneapolis Hotel, The Depot. Adult tickets start at \$125, children's tickets start at \$25, and table sponsorships are available. Register at [annbancroftfoundation.org](http://annbancroftfoundation.org) or by calling (612) 338-5752 ext. 192.

The 2018 Anniversary Celebration will showcase program alumnae and their mentors speaking about the life-changing effect of the foundation's support. The evening, emceed by Emmy-award winning KARE 11 journalist Adrienne Broaddus, will also feature live and silent auction opportunities, a cash bar and heavy hors d'oeuvres.

**Who:** the Ann Bancroft Foundation

**What:** *Voices, 2018 Annual Celebration*

**When:** Thursday, April 19, 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.

**Where:** Renaissance Minneapolis Hotel, The Depot, 225 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue South

**Tickets:** Adult tickets start at \$125; children at \$25. Register at [www.annbancroftfoundation.org](http://www.annbancroftfoundation.org) or by calling [612.338.5752](tel:612.338.5752) ext.192.



For interview opportunities, please contact Kelly Plummer at 651-206-9852 or [kelly@superstarpr.com](mailto:kelly@superstarpr.com).

The Ann Bancroft Foundation (ABF) ([www.annbancroftfoundation.org](http://www.annbancroftfoundation.org)) inspires and encourages girls to imagine something bigger. ABF strives to build confidence and offer tools that will allow a girl to go after her dreams and feel supported along the way. Through grants, mentorship, and ongoing development opportunities, ABF is giving Minnesota girls strength to achieve their full potential. ABF exemplifies the spirit of explorer and educator, Ann Bancroft, whose leadership and personal and historic achievements have inspired all people to take on new challenges.

### **About Ann Bancroft**

Ann Bancroft is one of the world's preeminent polar explorers and an internationally recognized leader who is dedicated to inspiring women and girls around the world to unleash the power of their dreams. Through her various roles as an explorer, educator, sought-after speaker and philanthropist, Ann believes that by sharing stories related to her dreams of outdoor adventure, she can help inspire a global audience to pursue their individual dreams. Bancroft organized and led the first all-woman expedition to Antarctica, becoming the first-known woman to reach both Poles across the ice. In 2001 Bancroft and Norwegian Liv Arnesen became the first women in history to cross Antarctica's landmass.

Ann's teamwork and leadership skills have undergone severe tests during her polar expeditions and provided her with opportunities to shatter female stereotypes. The tenacity and courage that define her character have earned Ann worldwide recognition as one of today's most influential role models for women and girls. She has been named among *Glamour* magazine's "Women of the Year" (2001); featured in the book *Remarkable Women of the Twentieth Century* (1998); inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame (1995); named *Ms. Magazine's* "Woman of the Year" (1987); and honored with numerous other awards for her accomplishments.

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