



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **THE ANN BANCROFT FOUNDATION'S SPRING GRANT CYCLE AWARDS 177 LOCAL GIRLS \$82,000 TOWARD THEIR DREAMS**

MINNEAPOLIS, MN (June 27, 2017) – The Ann Bancroft Foundation (ABF) is proud to announce its spring grant cycle has resulted in a total of \$82,064.77 awarded to 177 Minnesota girls through the organization's grant programs and overall mission to empower Minnesota girls to imagine something bigger and reach their full potential!

Since 1997, ABF has awarded nearly \$1.5 million to more than 4000 Minnesota girls from age five through high school graduation. The organization also connects girls to mentors who provide guidance, encouragement and friendship at a critical time in their lives. The grants are investments that have immediate and lasting impact. These grants are about more than giving girls just money. For many, it is the first time someone believed in them, heard their dream and took a stand for them. Each ABF grant opens the window to a world of possibly, providing a young Minnesota girl an opportunity she may never thought existed.

### **How It Works**

Each applicant is guided through the application process by an adult mentor who is not in the girl's immediate family. This can be a teacher, coach, family friend, etc. ABF grants are based on several factors including need which can include, but is not limited to financial need, a personal or family challenge and other barriers. A panel of ABF volunteers reviews applications.

ABF accepts grant applications twice a year, in fall and spring. Applications are available at: <http://www.annbancroftfoundation.org/grant-programs/>. Please continue to share our mission with those who are interested in either mentoring or applying for a grant themselves. [Help us](#) help girls reach for the stars!

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

**The Ann Bancroft Foundation** ([www.annbancroftfoundation.org](http://www.annbancroftfoundation.org)) supports girls to realize their highest dreams and 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. Bancroft organized and led the 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.

### **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.



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.

Ann founded the Ann Bancroft Foundation in 1991 to support the educational mission of the historic all-women's Antarctic polar expedition in 1993. It was originally called the AWE Foundation (All Women's Expedition) which produced curricula based on the expedition that reached more than 200,000 students worldwide. In 1997, the AWE Board of Directors and Ann decided that the Foundation would better achieve its mission by focusing on honoring and encouraging girls and women to reach, explore, and discover their own dreams and thus the Ann Bancroft Foundation was born. The vision of the reborn organization is for every girl and woman in the United States who dares to dream to have the support, inspiration, and resources that will help make their dreams come true.

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