



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Kelly Plummer

651-206-9852

[kelly@superstarpr.com](mailto:kelly@superstarpr.com)

## **Celebrate 20 Years of The Ann Bancroft Foundation**

*Empowering Minnesota Girls to Imagine Something Bigger and Reach Their Full Potential!*

**Thursday April 20, 2017**

MINNEAPOLIS, MN (April 3, 2017) The Ann Bancroft Foundation (ABF) is celebrating 20 years of helping girls reach their full potential as inspired by founder and world-renowned polar explorer Ann Bancroft. Since 1997, ABF has awarded an estimated \$1.4 million to 3,900 Minnesota girls from age five through high school graduation—connecting them to mentors who provide guidance, encouragement and support at a critical time in their lives. The grants are investments of up to \$500 that have immediate and lasting impact, funding a wide range of activities and experiences from piano lessons to a mission trip to Thailand to hang with elephants as part of a conservation project!

“Experience has so much power,” says 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.”

ABF’s 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration will be Thursday, April 20th from 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. at the Minneapolis Event Center. 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](tel:6123385752) ext. 192.

The 2017 Anniversary Celebration will showcase program alumnae and their mentors speaking about the life-changing effect of the foundation’s support. This year’s event will also feature several surprises along with live and silent auction opportunities, a cash bar and dinner via creative and gourmet food stations to round out this fun and inspiring evening.

**Who:** the Ann Bancroft Foundation

**What:** 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

**When:** Thursday, April 20, 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.

**Where:** Minneapolis Event Center, 212 2nd St SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414

**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:6123385752) ext.192.

**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 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.

### **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.

###