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The Ann Bancroft Foundation Gives 355 Minnesota Girls More Than \$169,000 To Help Fund Their Dreams

Annual Totals Show Impressive Reach and Impact Toward Helping Girls Imagine Something Bigger!

MINNEAPOLIS, MN (February 21, 2018) – The Ann Bancroft Foundation (ABF) is proud to announce its 2017 grants resulted in a total of \$169,793 awarded to 355 Minnesota girls through the organization’s grant programs and overall mission to help local girls who dare to dream, to have the support, inspiration, and resources to help make those dreams come true. The Ann Bancroft Foundation awards grants twice each year through its two programs:

Dare to Dream (D2D)

D2D grants fund art, cultural, leadership, educational, and outdoor/wilderness experiences for girls in grades 4 through 12, allowing them to begin exploring the outside world and begin recognizing their own abilities, values and strengths in the process.

Let Me Play (LMP)

LMP grants fund sport, athletic, and dance equipment or participation fees for girls in grades K through 12, giving them the opportunity to be part of a team, build strength and confidence, and push themselves farther—on the field and off.

The 2017 grants helped fund a wide variety of activities and pursuits for Minnesota girls including a Minnetonka high schooler who traveled to Nicaragua to lead a soccer clinic that the San Carlos school has committed to continuing. ABF is also helping fund *Women in Welding* members, Boundary Waters adventures and a trip to Washington D.C.

Here is a breakdown of grants per county in Minnesota.

| County | 2017 Grants Awarded |
|---------------|----------------------------|
| Hennepin | 156 |
| Ramsey | 76 |
| Anoka | 46 |
| Dakota | 16 |
| Saint Louis | 9 |
| Washington | 10 |
| Morrison | 5 |
| Stearns | 4 |
| Scott | 9 |

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|------------|---|
| Sherburne | 2 |
| Roseau | 1 |
| Carlton | 1 |
| Crow Wing | 1 |
| Houston | 4 |
| Benton | 3 |
| Carver | 3 |
| Chisago | 1 |
| Wadena | 1 |
| Beltrami | 1 |
| Fillmore | 1 |
| Blue Earth | 1 |
| Cass | 1 |
| Meeker | 1 |
| Murray | 1 |
| Sibley | 1 |

Since 1997, ABF has awarded \$1,556,847 to 4,203 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 (up to \$500) 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 possibility, 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/>

For interview opportunities, please contact Kelly Plummer at 651-206-9852 or kelly@superstarpr.com.

The Ann Bancroft Foundation (ABF) (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.