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The Ann Bancroft Foundation Spring Grant Cycle Awards 202 Minnesota Girls More Than \$96,000 To Help Fund Their Dreams

MINNEAPOLIS, MN (June 29, 2018) – The Ann Bancroft Foundation (ABF) is proud to announce its 2018 spring grant cycle resulted in a total of \$96,313 awarded to 202 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 in the spring and fall.

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](#). Or, watch the emotional and touching story of Elsa from Minneapolis who used her grant to pursue her dream of skiing super-G. Video available [here](#).

The 2018 spring grants will fund a wide variety of activities and pursuits for Minnesota girls including:

- **Aniya**, age 18 from Minneapolis produced a youth-led FUBU (For Us By Us) performance to showcase the successes of women of color and their contribution to music.
- **Hakyma**, age 14 from Alexandria, is participating in a Boundary Waters Canoe Area wilderness trip with her Girl Scout Troop.
- **Brianna**, age 15 from Ironton, is taking Tae Kwon Do or kickboxing classes to improve her strength, confidence, and as an outlet for her anger.
- **Diana**, age 16 from St. Paul joined a community soccer team where she competed in local tournaments and worked toward her ultimate goal of playing soccer in college.

Here is a breakdown of grants per county in Minnesota.

Anoka	12
Benton	1
Carver	3
Chisago	1
Crow Wing	7
Dakota	13
Dodge	1
Douglas	2

Fillmore	1
Hennepin	88
Itasca	1
Marshall	1
Mille Lacs	1
Ramsey	41
Rice	2
Saint Louis	5
Scott	1
Sherburne	10
Sibley	1
Stearns	4
Washington	5
Wright	1

Since 1997, ABF has awarded \$1,653,160 to 4,405 Minnesota girls in grades K-12. 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 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/>

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.