



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Kelly Plummer

651-206-9852

kelly@superstarpr.com

Join Us For: VOICES, Presented by TCF Bank
The Ann Bancroft Foundation's 2019 Annual Celebration
Help Minnesota Girls Find Their Voices and Reach Their Full Potential!

Thursday April 18, 2019

MINNEAPOLIS, MN (March 12, 2019) 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 Bank, is an evening dedicated to providing Minnesota girls the tools they need to go after their dreams and feel supported along the way.

Voices 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 a presentation of the inaugural ABF Impact Award to Michelle Storm. Storm is an educator at St. Paul City School who has, so far, mentored 69 ABF grant alumnae!

Since 1997, ABF has awarded \$1,734,352 to 4,576 Minnesota girls in grades K-12. 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 including the following **examples from 2018:**

- **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.
- **Jayani**, age 9 from Brooklyn Park, plans to build self-confidence and become the best in her events through training at MN Track Elite.
- **Nicole**, age 18 from Warroad, is looking to experience city cultures as she plays tuba with her high school band traveling to Chicago, New York, and Washington D.C.
- **Ayah**, age 17 from Roseville, is attending an educational conference hosted by the Muslim American Society to better learn how to empower youth in the community.
- **Camryn**, age 11 from Moorhead, wants to continue to reach her goals by competing in extreme cheerleading around the Midwest and Las Vegas.
- **Colibri**, age 15 from St. Paul, will learn technical skills such as CAD in addition to presentation skills while being an active member of her school's FIRST Robotics team.



- **Jenna**, age 17 from Little Falls, is hoping to master real-life business practices and build leadership skills through the DECA state and international conference.
- **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.

Here is a breakdown of 2018 grants per county in Minnesota:

Anoka	48	Mill Lacs	1
Benton	1	Mahnomen	4
Carlton	6	Morrison	1
Carver	4	Ramsey	86
Clay	2	Rice	2
Crow Wing	8	Roseau	1
Dakota	14	Saint Louis	8
Dodge	1	Scott	1
Douglas	2	Sherburne	18
Fillmore	1	Sibley	1
Hennepin	141	Stearns	8
Itasca	1	Todd	1
Kandiyohi	1	Washington	8
Marshall	1	Wright	1

“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.”

Who: Ann Bancroft Foundation

What: *Voices, 2019 Annual Celebration*

When: Thursday, April 18, 5:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Where: Renaissance Minneapolis Hotel, The Depot, 225 3rd Avenue South

Events: Heavy hors d’oeuvres, Cash bar, Live and Silent Auction, Alumnae and Mentor Stories and Impact Award Presentation

Dress: Cocktail

Tickets: Adult tickets start at \$125; children at \$25. Register at 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.

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.

###