



**For Immediate Release**

**Contacts:**

**Joanne Henry**

**612-280-4833**

[jhenry@annbancroftfoundation.org](mailto:jhenry@annbancroftfoundation.org)

**Kelly Plummer**

**651-206-9852**

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

## **Ann Bancroft Foundation Awards Grants to 112 Minnesota Girls**

*Transformational grants help girls overcome barriers to their dreams*

MINNEAPOLIS, MN (December 8, 2021) – The Ann Bancroft Foundation is proud to announce that it has awarded more than \$53,000 in grants for 112 Minnesota girls in 19 counties throughout the state. Ann Bancroft Foundation seeks to empower the next generation of leaders by helping girls overcome barriers, build self-esteem, and contribute to their self-confidence as they pursue their dreams. Grants are awarded in the spring and fall every year and girls receiving grants work with their mentors and participate in other development activities to achieve their goals.

From its founding 24 years ago, the Ann Bancroft Foundation has been committed to gender equity and to providing equal access to opportunities for Minnesota girls. The organization collaborates with its partners throughout the state to create awareness of the grant program to encourage more girls to apply, especially in communities that are marginalized and that fall outside the Twin Cities metro area where there may be fewer opportunities for girls. More than 60 percent of grants awarded reach Black, Indigenous, Latino or Asian girls.

“Our grants to girls are transformational,” says Ethelind B. Kaba, Executive Director of the Ann Bancroft Foundation. “Supporting a girl’s dream can change the trajectory of a girl’s life at a pivotal time. Receiving a grant award and the tools to pursue a dream tells a girl that she is valued and that others believe in her potential,” Kaba says.

“This year’s grantees are all inspiring young women; a number of them have already shown themselves to be courageous and persistent in the face of obstacles that would sideline many adults. We are so pleased to be able to support their dreams and we look forward to seeing what they will do next!” Kaba said.

Girls make the connection in their application with the experiences they are pursuing and the goals they have for themselves. Girls receiving grants this fall include:

- **Yahira**, 14, Anoka County, will join the YMCA Youth in Government Program to get a first-hand look at how legislators, judges and media representatives do their jobs.
- **Sun Shine**, 17, Ramsey County, plans to use her grant toward expenses of a school trip to Japan where she hopes to learn more about another Asian culture. She has been feeling fearful with Asian hate crimes on the rise, and wants to learn more from the stop Asian hate crimes movement.
- **Anushka**, 16, Rochester, plans to develop marketing materials and a business plan to build awareness and use of the mobile app she designed to reduce waste and litter. The app quickly identifies the closest recycling location.
- **Chloe**, 15, a Lakeville middle-schooler, will use her grant to finally take flute lessons in-person after struggling to learn a difficult instrument through video instruction during COVID restrictions.
- **Alyson**, 17, Elk River, plans to use her grant for travel expenses to take part in speech tournaments. She wants to use her voice for good and to combat comments she hears that teens can't do anything to create positive change.
- **"Fredo,"**15, Dakota County, wants to move to the next level in her sport by playing AAU basketball; her dream is to play college basketball while getting her degree.
- **Autumn**, 11, St. Louis County, wants to be her own kind of dancer by taking classes in hip-hop. She says there are not many role models for hip-hop where she lives in Northern Minnesota, and that makes her even more determined to try something new that fits her own identity.
- **Tita**, 16, Kandiyohi County, is looking forward to seeing the Titanic Museum in Pigeon Forge Tennessee. Tita says she has been fascinated by the ship's mysteries since she first heard about it and the grant money will help her follow her curiosity and to make the travel possible.

## Statewide Representation

Over the last 24 years, grants have been awarded to girls in 78 of the state's 87 counties. Hennepin, Ramsey and Dakota continue to be the top three counties for both applications received and grant awards. This fall, 19 counties were represented in the grant awards. Counties in our current grant distributions include:

|                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| Anoka - 6      | Olmstead - 1   |
| Benton - 1     | Otter Tail - 1 |
| Blue Earth - 1 | Polk - 1       |
| Carlton - 1    | Ramsey - 21    |
| Dakota - 11    | St. Louis - 3  |
| Dodge - 1      | Sherburne - 3  |
| Hennepin - 48  | Stearns - 3    |
| Itasca - 1     | Washington - 3 |
| Kandiyohi - 3  | Wright - 1     |
| Norman - 2     |                |

## **\$2 Million and Counting**

Since 1997, Ann Bancroft Foundation has awarded more than \$2 million to 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 dreams, and took a stand for them. Each grant opens the window to a world of possibilities, providing a young Minnesota girl an opportunity she may never have known 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. The grants are based on several factors 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.

Ann Bancroft Foundation accepts grant applications twice a year, in fall and spring. The spring grant application period opens February 1, 2022. More information will be available soon on the organization's website.

**Ann Bancroft Foundation** ([www.annbancroftfoundation.org](http://www.annbancroftfoundation.org)) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that inspires and encourages girls to imagine something bigger. The organization 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, the foundation and its supporters are giving Minnesota girls strength to achieve their full potential.

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

###