

WATCH ME

Grow  
Discover  
Lead  
Learn ★



THE ANN BANCROFT FOUNDATION  
EMPOWERS GIRLS TO  
IMAGINE SOMETHING BIGGER  
AND HELPS THEM REACH THEIR  
FULL POTENTIAL.

DEAR ABF SUPPORTERS,

2018 was another exciting year here at the Ann Bancroft Foundation, and your support is helping to make our dreams come true. Thank you!

We had another record-breaking year in our grant programs, awarding \$177,505 to 373 girls across Minnesota. You will find complete details in the pages that follow, but we are particularly proud that 19% (up from 11% in 2017) of our grants went to girls who live outside of the Twin Cities Metro region. 45% of the state’s population live in the 80 counties outside of the Twin Cities metro area, and we are working to better distribute our grants to align with the population of the state.

Our evaluation process continues to gather feedback from our grant participants, and it is deeply gratifying to see that our work is achieving our desired outcomes for girls. Data gathered continues to tell us that:

- Applying for a grant encourages girls to think about their dreams and work to make their dreams come true;
- It was helpful to have support from their mentor, and girls are reporting that the process connected them with a non-family adult who they trust;
- Girls are maintaining contact with their mentors and want to maintain their connection with ABF; and
- The funded activity was a good experience for our grant recipients and changed their lives for the better.

Looking back over the past five years, we know that we would not be where we are today without the remarkable encouragement we received from The Barry Foundation. Their support at a critical time in our growth as an organization leveraged funding from other foundations and provided matching dollars that maximized individual giving. As a result, we have built a strong infrastructure, significantly increased contributed income, and award 407% more in grant awards annually.

In addition to expanding our fundraising and grantmaking capacity, staff has been able to connect with and reengage grant recipients from 2000-2013, and from them we hear this strong message: The one-time ABF grant that they received was truly life-changing.

Each year we take time to reflect on the prior year’s remarkable memories and achievements, but we also like to welcome the newest members of our community, including mentors, donors, activity providers, and partners. You make our work possible, and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for supporting us as we imagine something bigger.

*Ann Bancroft*  
Ann Bancroft  
Founder

*Mara Proell*  
Mara Proell  
Chair, 2019

*Sara J. Fenlason*  
Sara J. Fenlason  
Executive Director

## LIA | SAINT PAUL, MN DARE TO DREAM 2017

Lia's dream is to one day have traveled all around the world to meet and connect with many people from different backgrounds and cultures. "I hope to have friends from around the world whom I can visit and have visit me," Lia wrote in her ABF grant application. It seems she is well on her way to achieving that dream.

In the spring of 2017, Lia received a Dare to Dream grant that enabled her to be part of the Rotary Summer Youth Exchange Program. The program paired Lia with a girl from Finland where one month was spent in the Twin Cities with Lia's family, and Lia then spent one month in southwestern Finland with the girl's family. Through her grant experience, Lia was able to build self-confidence, explore the world around her, and identify her passion for engaging with the global community.

"This experience made me think about how small things in a culture can be so different—things that I think are normal to me and life here in the U.S. are not the same once you go outside of the country."

Lia told ABF that this program sparked within her a passion to continue to travel and live in new places around the world. She is currently on a gap year Rotary exchange program in Mexico and dreams of traveling to Africa, the Middle East, and/or Southeast Asia during her collegiate studies.



photo provided by Lia

"This program helped me to become more independent because I traveled back from Finland alone as well as explored the nearby city by myself. I feel more ready to live away from home because I am confident that I can make sure my needs are met and adapt to new situations. I also feel proud of how hard I tried to really immerse myself in the culture as much as I could."



"THIS PROGRAM HELPED ME TO BECOME MORE INDEPENDENT... I AM CONFIDENT THAT I CAN MAKE SURE MY NEEDS ARE MET AND ADAPT TO NEW SITUATIONS."

**100%**  
OF GIRLS REPORTED THAT APPLYING FOR AN ABF GRANT HELPED THEM:

- THINK ABOUT THEIR DREAMS
- DESCRIBE THEIR DREAMS TO OTHERS
- WORK TOWARD MAKING THEIR DREAMS COME TRUE
- LEARN SOMETHING ABOUT THEMSELVES

**89%**  
OF GIRLS REPORTED THAT THEY HAVE REMAINED IN TOUCH WITH THEIR MENTOR AFTER THEIR FUNDED ACTIVITY HAS CONCLUDED

**98%**  
OF GIRLS REPORTED THAT THEIR FUNDED ACTIVITY:

- WAS A GOOD EXPERIENCE FOR THEM
- CHANGED THEIR LIFE FOR THE BETTER
- GAVE THEM AN ADULT (NOT A FAMILY MEMBER) WHO THEY TRUST

**77%**  
OF GIRLS REPORTED THAT THEY EITHER COULD NOT, OR DO NOT KNOW IF THEY COULD, PARTICIPATE IN THEIR FUNDED ACTIVITY WITHOUT THE ABF GRANT

**95%**  
OF GIRLS REPORTED:

- THAT THEY WOULD TELL THEIR FRIENDS TO APPLY FOR A GRANT
- THAT IT WAS HELPFUL TO HAVE THEIR MENTOR SUPPORT THEM

**72%**  
OF GIRLS REPORTED THAT THEY WOULD LIKE TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH ABF

THE ANN BANCROFT FOUNDATION  
AWARDS GRANTS TWICE EACH YEAR  
THROUGH OUR TWO PROGRAMS:

### DARE TO DREAM

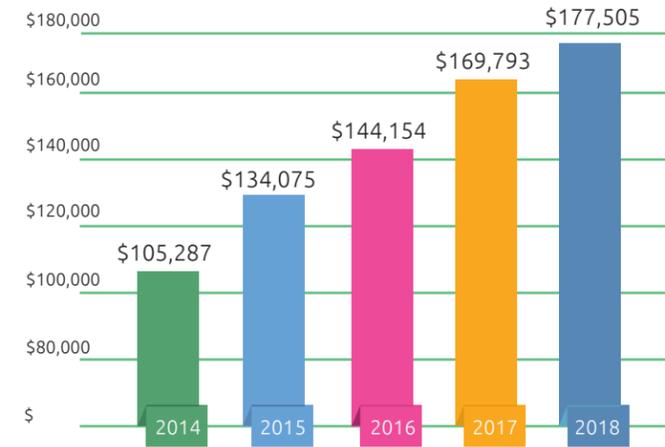
Dare to Dream (D2D) grants fund art, cultural, leadership, educational, and outdoor/wilderness experiences for girls in grades four through 12, allowing them to begin exploring the outside world and begin recognizing their own abilities, values, and strengths in the process.

### LET ME PLAY

Let Me Play (LMP) grants fund 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.

In 2018, we awarded 373 grants totaling \$177,505. Since our founding in 1997, we have awarded grants totaling \$1,734,352 to 4,576 girls.

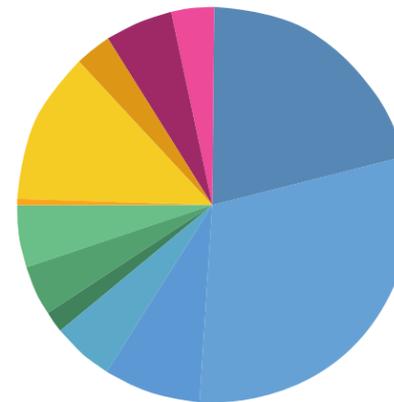
#### GRANT AWARD TOTALS



2018	# OF REQUESTS FUNDED	\$ VALUE FUNDED
DARE TO DREAM	203	\$95,452
LET ME PLAY	170	\$82,053
TOTAL	373	\$177,505

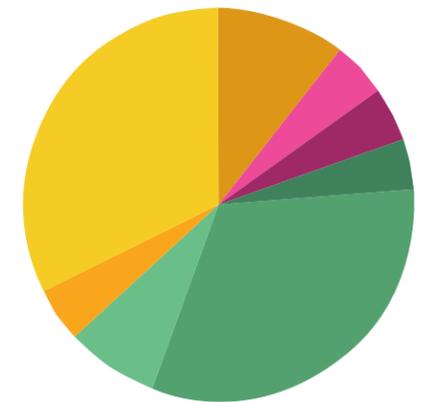
Our grants are as diverse as the dreams of our girls. We are proud to support such a wide range of activities.

#### 2018 LET ME PLAY FUNDED ACTIVITIES



Ballet/Dance	21%	Other	5%
Basketball	30%	Rowing	1%
Cheerleading	8%	Soccer	12%
Cross Country	5%	Softball	3%
Figure Skating/Hockey	2%	Swimming	6%
Gymnastics	4%	Volleyball	3%

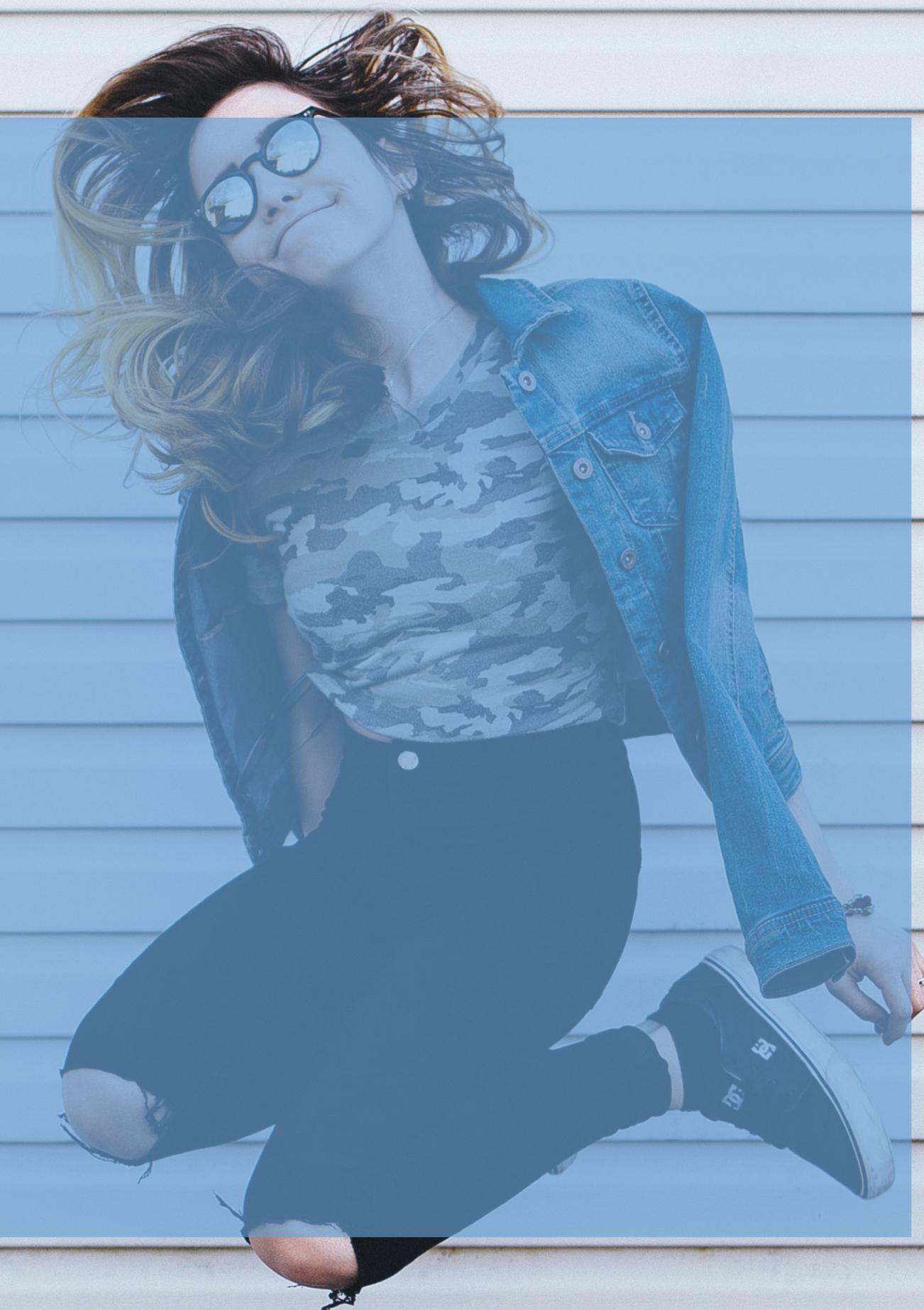
#### 2018 DARE TO DREAM FUNDED ACTIVITIES



Arts/Music	11%
Cooking	4%
Culture/Language	4%
HorsemanSHIP	4%
Leadership/Education	32%
Outdoors	8%
Travel	32%
STEM	5%

“I WAS ABLE TO SEE WHAT I AM  
TRULY CAPABLE OF AND TO TEST  
THE LIMITS OF MY ABILITY.”

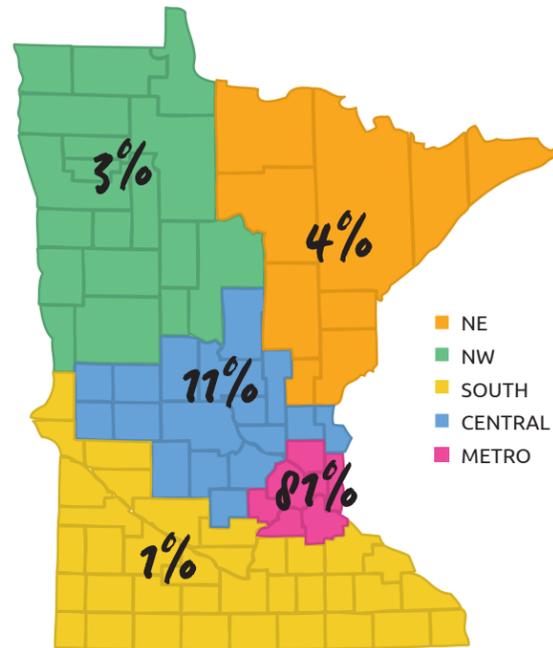
*Watch Me Achieve*



Girls from 177 different schools across the state were awarded grants with the largest numbers (five or more grantees each) coming from 14 unique schools:

SCHOOLS WITH MOST GRANTEES IN 2018

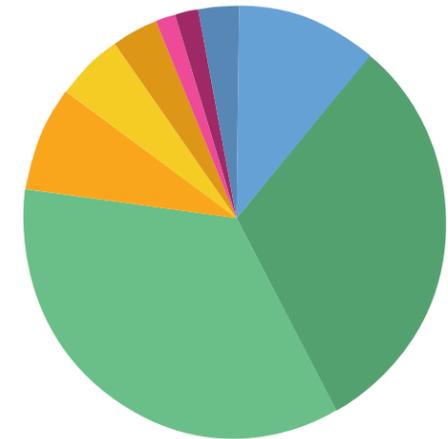
15	Ascension Catholic School
11	DeLaSalle High School
5	Edina High School
18	Fridley Middle
14	Fridley Senior High
5	Harding Senior High
8	Humboldt Secondary School
6	Kennedy Senior High
5	Prodeo Academy
11	St. Paul City Primary School
6	Washburn Senior High
18	Washington Tech- Secondary Magnet
5	Crosby-Ironton School
6	Elk River Senior High



Our grantees come from a wide variety of ethnic backgrounds as reported in the application process.

2018 GRANTEE ETHNIC BACKGROUNDS

Caucasian	35%
African American	31%
Asian American	11%
Hispanic	8%
Hmong	5%
Native American	3%
Somali	2%
Other	3%
Choose not to share	2%



2018 GRANTEES BY GRADE AT TIME OF AWARD

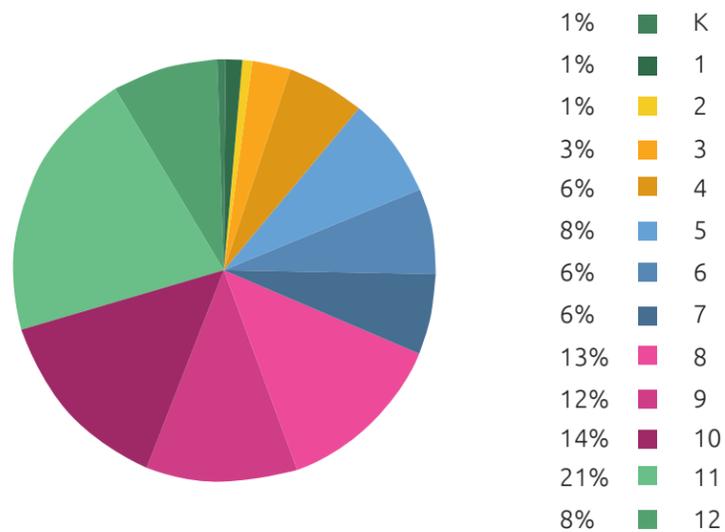




photo provided by Jessica

## MENTOR STORY: JESSICA

10-year-old l'Monie was awarded a Let Me Play grant in the fall of 2018 to pursue her karate dreams at Midwest Karate with the help of her mentor, Jessica. Jessica is not a new influence in l'Monie's life as she has been her Big Sister through the Big Brothers Big Sisters Program in the Greater Twin Cities Chapter. Through karate, Jessica hopes that l'Monie can continue to develop her karate skills as well as develop a sense of self-discipline, self-respect, teamwork, and leadership.

**"I'MONIE HAS BOUNDLESS ENERGY! SEEING HOW SHE CAN CHANNEL IT INTO HER KARATE CLASSES AND WATCHING HER GROW OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS HAS BEEN GREAT!"**



**"I LOVE MAKING NEW FRIENDS, AND I ENJOY WORKING WITH PEOPLE AND THEIR IDEAS."**

## ISABELLA | ZIMMERMAN, MN LET ME PLAY 2017

The importance of having someone who believes in you and helps to support you is something that Isabella learned first-hand throughout the start of her cheerleading dreams. Isabella was awarded a Let Me Play grant in 2017 to join the Jets Competition Cheerleading program within the communities of Elk River, Rogers, Otsego, and Zimmerman. This was her introduction to cheerleading—something that continues to be her passion.

"I love making new friends, and I enjoy working with people and their ideas. I also hope to learn my back handspring," Isabella wrote in her grant application.

With the help and support of her parents, her mentor, and her coach, Isabella was able to start with the basics of learning a cartwheel and has now mastered back flips and back tucks—reaching the goal she outlined in her grant application. This is something she is very proud of and happy to have accomplished with the help of those around her.

"My coach Rachael helped me with my back handspring and my routine. I would be nowhere without her."

In addition to putting in hard work and finding determination, two key elements to Isabella's success, she also fostered true friendships through cheerleading—calling them her "cheer family." She learned the value of a team and how your teammates may become like family. Isabella plans to continue her cheerleading pursuits in the hopes of gaining a scholarship to attend college, while, of course, still cheering.



photo provided by Isabella



“I WALKED OUT A MORE MATURE, BOLD,  
AND CONFIDENT YOUNG WOMAN.”

*Watch Me Lead*

The Ann Bancroft Foundation is funded 100% by contributions—we could not fulfill our mission without your generosity and support. The following lists include donors who contributed \$250 or more throughout 2018. If you feel there is an error, please contact us at (612) 338-5752 x192 so we can correct our records.

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† Deceased

DONOR PROFILE: NADINE SEHNERT



CITY: Minneapolis ABF INVOLVEMENT: Monthly Donor

HOW I BECAME INVOLVED WITH ABF: When I was 17, I wanted very much to participate in the 4-H Arts-In program. Unfortunately, my family didn't have the funds. An anonymous donor paid the costs for me to attend. I was so thrilled. I was able to perform in the Arts-In show at the Minnesota State Fair and also had a significant solo in the show. This gave me a huge confidence boost as I started my freshman year at the University of Minnesota as a Theatre Arts major.

WHY I CONTINUE TO SUPPORT ABF: I appreciate the investment ABF has made in quality staff and other support needed to continue Ann's dream. I'm glad my small donation underwrites individual grants to girls as well as the costs to sustain and grow them.



# Watch Me Breathe

“IT SHOWED ME THAT I AM CAPABLE OF MORE THAN I THOUGHT I WAS.”

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*Rosters as of 12/31/2018*

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**CITY:** Minneapolis     **PROFESSION:** CPA

**HOW I BECAME INVOLVED WITH ABF:** My neighbor was on the ABF board and invited me to attend the annual event. I loved the organization from the start. The "I am a dreamer and I am not the only one" saying at that year's annual event really resonated with me. I was also a fan of Ann's from her North Pole expedition and getting to meet Ann for the first time was so fun!

**WHY I CONTINUE TO SUPPORT ABF:** I am passionate about "growing" strong girls. I was lucky enough to have parents who supported me and allowed me to dream and take risks. As a young girl I realized that my parents saw a different life for me that wasn't based on gender norms. I want that same opportunity for all the girls of Minnesota and feel that we at ABF can be that spark.

**WHAT I GET FROM MY WORK WITH AND SUPPORT OF ABF AND MINNESOTA GIRLS:** Through ABF I get energized by our awesome girls who push their own personal boundaries and take risks. I am reminded of my own inner self that still needs to take risks and grow. I feel that our girls and our supporters are on a journey together, and we are both better due to the work of ABF.

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Anne Marie and Lowell Helgason  
Millicent Lang  
Sally and Richard Leider

**IN MEMORY OF TERRY BUTLER**  
Molly and Draper Jaffray

**IN MEMORY OF VIRGINIA GREENMAN**  
Charles Greenman

**IN MEMORY OF LINDA JADWIN**  
Jan and David Jones

**IN MEMORY OF JUDY KITZMAN**  
Sylvia Stanley

**IN MEMORY OF LES LEOPOLD**  
Pat Campanaro

**IN MEMORY OF PAULA MERRIGAN**  
Amy Crawford and Alice Johnson  
Bernice Merrigan

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (UNAUDITED)

Cash	\$	309,880
Other Assets		42,990
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>352,870</b>
<b>Unrestricted Net Assets</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>352,870</b>

### STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES (UNAUDITED)

#### Revenue

Institutional Grants	\$	187,850
Individual Contributions		107,600
Annual Event		295,990
Other Events		12,110
Gifts In Kind		28,815
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>641,280</b>

#### Expense

Salaries & Benefits	\$	227,310
Grants & Direct Program Costs		189,695
Annual Event		102,840
Office & Occupancy		53,245
Marketing, Design & Printing		17,835
Other		8,485
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>637,455</b>

<b>Net Surplus</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>3,825</b>
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#### TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED

Contributions	\$	5,000
Release from restrictions	\$	(8,750)
"NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT) TEMP RESTRICTED NET ASSETS"	\$	(3,750)
<b>NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT) - TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>75</b>

## OUR MISSION:

The Ann Bancroft Foundation inspires and encourages girls to imagine something bigger. We strive 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 Ann Bancroft Foundation is giving Minnesota girls strength to achieve their full potential.



Ann Bancroft Foundation  
211 N 1st St. #480  
Minneapolis, MN 55401  
(612) 338-5752  
[annbancroftfoundation.org](http://annbancroftfoundation.org)