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THE ANN BANCROFT FOUNDATION:
MAKING DREAMS COME TRUE FOR MINNESOTA GIRLS SINCE 1997
Nearly 19 Years and an Estimated \$1,500,000 in Grants Given To Girls

MINNEAPOLIS, MN (October 19, 2015) – The Ann Bancroft Foundation is proud to announce it will award an estimated \$80,000 in grants to Minnesota girls this fall. It's part of the organization's ongoing mission of creating a world where every girl has a chance to live her dream and reach her full potential.

Ann founded the Ann Bancroft Foundation in 1991 to support the educational mission of the historic all-women's Antarctic polar expedition in 1993. In 1997, the Board of Directors and Ann decided that the Foundation would better achieve its mission by focusing on honoring and encouraging girls and women to reach, explore, and discover their own dreams and thus the Ann Bancroft Foundation was born. The vision is for every girl and woman in the United States who dares to dream to have the support, inspiration, and resources that will help make their dreams come true.

Since 1997, ABF has awarded an estimated \$1,500,000 to 4,000 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 possibly, providing a young Minnesota girl an opportunity she may never thought existed.

ABF Grants

Dare to Dream grants fund cultural experiences such a music lessons, camp or experiences that enable girls to explore an interest. **Let Me Play** grants are specific to sports and fitness experiences, allowing girls to enjoy all the benefits that sports bring to a person's life. In 2014 the ABF funded 83% of its grant applicants for more than \$100,000.

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.

Impact

Here are a few examples of how these small grants make a big difference in the lives of Minnesota girls:

Rhiannon (age 15)

Dream: A Service Trip to West Virginia

On this trip I learned about strength. Not the kind of strength it takes to lift something heavy, but the kind of strength it takes to get up in the morning when the whole world is against you. The kids I met did not have much money and most live in broken families. I was amazed that they all didn't just give up on humanity all together. I have a new outlook on my own town as well. I find myself looking for more volunteer work and encouraging others to do the same.

Maria (age 12)

Dream: Baking Class

I learned a lot of tips about baking that will help me open a bakery someday. This experience will always be in my heart.

Sophia (age 11)

Dream: Horse Camp

If I listen and behave I am able to have fun experiences and am more pleasant to be around. I met new people who were kind and encouraging. I was proud to be in the show and receive a medal.

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 (www.annbancroftfoundation.org) supports girls to realize their highest dreams and 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. Bancroft organized and led the first all-woman expedition to Antarctica, becoming the first 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.

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.

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.