



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Ann Bancroft Foundation Awards 373 Minnesota Girls More Than \$177,000 To Help Fund Their Dreams in 2018

MINNEAPOLIS, MN (January XX, 2019) – The Ann Bancroft Foundation (ABF) is proud to announce its 2018 spring and fall grant cycles resulted in a total of \$177,505 awarded to 373 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 including the following examples from 2018:

- **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.
- **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 2018 grants per county in Minnesota:

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

Since 1997, ABF has awarded \$1,734,352 to 4,576 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.