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The Ann Bancroft Foundation Fall Grant Cycle Awards 192 Minnesota Girls More Than \$93,000 To Help Fund Their Dreams

ST. PAUL, MN (December 1, 2019) – The Ann Bancroft Foundation (ABF) is proud to announce its 2019 fall grant cycle resulted in a total of \$93,780 awarded to 192 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 the awards cycle this fall:

- **Yasmin**, age 13 from Fridley, will participate in YMCA Youth in Government Model Assembly to practice her public speaking skills and meet peers from other Minnesota communities.
- **Amelia**, age 15 from Rochester, hopes to develop her creative writing while attending the University of Iowa’s Young Writer’s Studio in pursuit of one day becoming a published writer.
- **Gloria**, age 17 from Eden Prairie, is planning to explore her Russian heritage and passion for creating art through music while practicing for and performing a piano solo at the Russian Museum of Art.
- **Harley**, age 16 from Cannon Falls, will become more independent through the completion of Driver’s Education and Behind the Wheel classes in order to obtain her driver’s license.
- **Della**, age 13 from Bemidji, plans to become a better teammate, work on her riding, and grow an appreciation for her horse through Heart and Hooves Horsemanship clinics in northern MN.

Here is a breakdown of grants per county in Minnesota:

Anoka:	21	Dakota:	8
Beltrami:	4	Douglas:	1
Blue Earth:	1	Goodhue:	1
Carlton:	1	Hennepin:	53
Clay:	3	Hubbard:	2
Cottonwood:	1	Itasca:	2
Crow Wing:	1	Kandiyohi:	2

Koochiching:	2	Rice:	1
Lake:	1	Scott:	2
Meeker:	1	Sherburne:	3
Morrison:	1	St. Louis:	20
Olmsted:	1	Washington:	13
Pine:	1	Wright:	4
Ramsey:	41		

Since 1997, ABF has awarded \$1,917,052 to 4,954 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: <https://www.annbancroftfoundation.org/programs/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.