

**Bemidji Public Library
509 America Avenue NW
Bemidji MN 56601**



Press Release

Date: November 25, 2009

Contact: Doug Johnson, Chair, Bemidji Public Library

The Bemidji Public Library Board is pleased to announce that funds have been secured to purchase the delightful sculpture, "A Little Bird." This sculpture is on display in front of the library near the main entrance off of 5th St. Northwest in Bemidji. The sculpture was created by artist Julie Jones of Fort Collins, Colorado. It will have a permanent home in front of the library as part of the Bemidji Art Walk.

This whimsical sculpture was inspired by the artist's children who loved to read. Ms. Jones notes that "A Little Bird' is what happens when an imagination is allowed to soar." She also wrote a short poem "A Little Bird" as follows:

I happened upon a girl one day, who rather than skip or play,
sat down to read a book about birds.
She had a bow so big and blue, it drew a shadow,
into which flew, a fat sparrow,
wanting to look, at the girl with a bow.
What the sparrow didn't know
was that its perch was a toe
and the girl surprised
looked at the sparrow eye to eye.
Neither could move, so startled they
in wonder kept looking. If you,
half as lucky as me,
chance to view a sparrow and girl
you too might be caught staring.

The original placement of the statute was done through the Bemidji Art Walk with a donation from John Baer and Security Bank USA. The purchase has been made possible by generous grants from the Bemidji Friends of the Library, Northwoods Garden Club, and in part by the Region 2 Arts Council through funding from the Minnesota Legislature. The Northwoods Garden Club has also provided landscaping and flowers to adorn the sculpture and library grounds. The Bemidji Friends of the Library have been a vibrant champion and supporter of the library for the last 26 years.