

PRESS RELEASE

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Savannah Author Wins National Literary Award for Portland Book

Round Hill, VA: The Young Voices Foundation™, sponsors of the Young Voices Foundation Awards™, honoring books and media that inspire, mentor and educate young people and their families, is pleased to announce that *Spenser Goes to Portland* written by local author, Spenser and Mom (Melanie Brooks), and illustrated by SCAD Instructor, Amie Jacobsen, was awarded a silver medal.

Judging is based on content (emphasis on strong family values and suitability for the specified age group), originality, design, and production quality. “Judges are especially pleased to review a title that will appeal to an otherwise reluctant reader,” said Bobbi Carducci, Foundation Director.

The judging panel includes published authors, editors, publishers, educators, young readers, parents, and family counselors.

Young Voices Foundation™ also sponsors the Young Voices Foundation™ Award for Excellence honoring educators, parents and community members dedicated to working with young people, www.youngvoicesawards.com

The Young Voices Foundation™ is a Virginia based 501(c)(3) educational non-profit dedicated to mentoring creative young people and encouraging a life-long love of the written word.

Spenser Goes to Portland is the first in a series of children’s books about the great cities of this country. The books include the city’s history, geography, and culture. The books feature Spenser, a very small, almost human dog, and his mother as they travel from city to city. The second book in the series, *Spenser Goes to St. Louis*, is available now. The third book, *Spenser’s Savannah*, will be launched in November in Spenser’s hometown of Savannah, Georgia. Author proceeds from the Spenser books go to the local Feeding America food bank.

To learn more about the Young Voices Foundation™ and the Young Voices Project, go to www.youngvoicesfoundation.org

To learn more about the SpenserNation series of books, go to www.spensernation.com.