

“The sculpture acts as a humanistic symbol: Of the passage of time, of the human condition, of expectations for a positive outcome.”

— ALBERT PALEY



The Promise

BY ALBERT PALEY

Through nocturnal
striated clouds
the stars celestial brilliance
penetrates the night air
The moonlit path
beckons the journey
and the promise
of a new dawn
In that time of transition
in the haze of morning
when life stirs anew
the wild geese
have taken flight
In their wings
is held the first
of the suns warmth
of this new day

PENNSTATE HERSHEY



Milton S. Hershey
Medical Center





Penn State Hershey commissioned a sculpture that would at once serve as a focal point for hospital visitors and a way to soften the edges of the new building. “The Promise” sculpture, like the delivery of health care itself, is a study in perceived opposites. With health care, there must be both skill and compassion.

In this sculpture, there is

- color and the absence of color,
- positive space—the metal wings of the geese, for example—and negative space—the birds’ bodies
- abstract and concrete

There is the perspective you get from a distance, along the walkways leading to campus or from the parking lot, and there is the new perspective you get when you walk through the natural archways along the base of the piece and look up and around you.

The use of natural elements ties in with the theme of the new hospital building itself. The sculpture replicates the intimacy that comes with walking under a broad tree in a park, or sitting under an ivy-covered pergola.

We hope the whimsical elements engage your child’s natural sense of wonder and curiosity, lighting their imagination, and serving as a place for them to begin or continue the emotional healing process that must accompany a physical one.

We hope that your child’s or family’s experience with the sculpture is an inspiring one to balance the often stressful, worry-laden experience of a hospital stay.

