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**For Immediate Release**

**Contact: Marketta Bakke, (585) 340-2012**

**Rochester Artist and RIT Professor Commissioned by Heritage Christian Services  
To Create Outdoor Sculpture at the Pieters Family Life Center**

HENRIETTA, NY—Juan Carlos Caballero-Perez of Henrietta, a faculty member of the School for American Crafts at the Rochester Institute of Technology has been commissioned by Heritage Christian Services (HCS) to create an outdoor sculpture at the entrance to the Pieters Family Life Center. Caballero-Perez will be paid \$47,000 for the commission.

A total of 30 artists submitted proposals for the project. The sculpture will be unveiled at the Life Center on Wednesday, June 24 in conjunction with festivities celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of HCS.

“For 25 years, Heritage Christian Services has worked tirelessly on behalf of individuals with developmental disabilities,” said Senator Jim Alesi, who secured funding for the sculpture. “Placed, fittingly, on the grounds of the Pieters Family Life Center, this sculpture will stand as a true testament to the thousands of dedicated professionals and selfless volunteers who have devoted their time and energy to advocacy and support of individuals with developmental disabilities, and their families. I am honored and proud to have a relationship with such a marvelous organization.”

Caballeros-Perez’s proposal calls for a soaring, 18-foot silver-toned metal sculpture, which has yet to be named. It is comprised of two tall, curved, dancing columns connected at the top by a circular piece. “In the sculpture, it doesn’t say which figure is the provider of service and which is the person with the disability,” states Caballero-Perez in his proposal. “Each supports the other and at any time, they can be either figure. It is a symbiotic relationship with each party benefiting.”

It will also highlight the Life Center’s focus on accessible arts and cultural programming there – for people with and without disabilities. “The Life Center is emerging as a focal point for the arts,” said HCS President Robert Pieters. “The motto for the center is ‘Wellness for the whole person, all in one place.’ Arts and culture certainly play a prominent role in achieving that.”

Sarah E. Lentini, president and CEO of the Arts & Cultural Council for Greater Rochester and a member of the selection panel, added, “This commission represents a substantial artistic and economic opportunity. Juan Carlos’ sculpture will provide a striking addition to the region’s cultural landscape. It is a reminder that the language of art is universal, relevant and essential to us all.”

Caballero-Perez was one of three finalists selected by a panel that included HCS President Bob Pieters, HCS Art Therapist Sharon Scott, HCS Residential Manager Shayla Johnson, as well as community members Sarah Lentini, president and CEO of the Arts & Cultural Council for Greater Rochester; Scot Bennett, director of the art department at Roberts Wesleyan College; and Jerry Alonzo, an artist who lives in Geneseo. The other finalists were Peter Macon of Rochester and Mark McDermott of East Rochester.

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*The Pieters Family Life Center (PFLC) is located at 1025 Commons Way behind Frontier Commons in Henrietta. The 21,000-square-foot facility offers affordable memberships, a wheelchair accessible fitness room, high-tech therapy and fitness pool and more. It is a program of Heritage Christian Services, a thriving human services organization that supports more than 1,400 children and adults with developmental disabilities*

*For more information about the Life Center and its programs, visit [www.pietersfamilylifecenter.org](http://www.pietersfamilylifecenter.org).*