Hazel Hawkins
MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mabie Skilled Nursing Facilities Debut New Tranquility Rooms for Patients
Therapeutic spaces designed to support residents with cognitive impairment and mental health conditions

March 19, 2026-Hollister, CA — The Mabie Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs) at Hazel Hawkins Memorial Hospital (HHMH) have unveiled two newly designed Tranquility Rooms—one at each facility—offering a therapeutic environment dedicated to residents living with dementia, Alzheimer's disease, and other cognitive or mental health conditions.

These innovative spaces are designed to provide comprehensive sensory therapy aimed at reducing anxiety, minimizing agitation, and improving overall quality of life. Nearly half of the 95 residents across both facilities experience cognitive impairment, depression, anxiety, or related conditions, reflecting a growing need for specialized care environments both locally and nationwide.

"Tranquility Rooms represent our commitment to dignified, person-centered care," said Jaylee McGary, Interim Director of Nursing. "By creating a calming, supportive environment, we can better meet the emotional and psychological needs of our residents while enhancing their daily experiences."

The Tranquility Rooms are expected to deliver measurable benefits, including:

* Improved resident comfort and dignity
* Reduced reliance on psychotropic medications
* Fewer behavioral episodes requiring intervention
* Enhanced family visit experiences
* Increased staff efficiency in managing complex behaviors

In addition to sensory therapy, the rooms will serve multiple purposes, including quiet spaces for residents, psychology sessions, family visits, and one-on-one therapeutic interventions.

The project was made possible through a $100,000 grant from the Fred Matteson Family Fund administered through the Community Foundation of San Benito County and the Hazel Hawkins Hospital Foundation. Funding supported the installation of therapeutic furniture and sensory elements such as Thera-Glide chairs, bubble walls, fiber optic lighting, musical instruments for music therapy, digital picture frames, and local San Benito County artwork. Additional investments include aromatherapy systems, adjustable lighting, and comprehensive staff training programs.

These evidence-based features are designed to engage multiple senses—visual, auditory, tactile, and olfactory—through calming sounds, weighted blankets, therapeutic scents, and customizable lighting.

With Alzheimer's disease affecting someone new every 65 seconds nationwide, Hazel Hawkins' initiative positions San Benito County as a leader in innovative memory care. The Tranquility Rooms also serve as a model for families and caregivers seeking to create supportive environments at home.

"At the center of everything we do is one unwavering principle: the dignity of each person we serve," added Mary Casillas, HHMH CEO. "These rooms provide a peaceful sanctuary where residents can feel safe, reconnect with loved ones, and receive compassionate care in a low-stimulation setting."

About Hazel Hawkins Memorial Hospital

Hazel Hawkins Memorial Hospital is a full-service, public agency hospital delivering modern medicine and compassionate care to the growing San Benito County community. HHMH offers hundreds of health services across multiple locations, including top-tier specialists, a modern Emergency Department, and a state-of-the-art Women's Center. To learn more about Hazel Hawkins Memorial Hospital and the Hazel Hawkins Hospital Foundation, please visit www.hazelhawkins.com.

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