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**\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\***

## HAZEL HAWKINS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL WELCOMES FIRST BABY OF THE NEW YEAR

**January 2, 2025, Hollister, CA** – The New Year has just barely begun as Hazel Hawkins Memorial Hospital welcomed the first “Baby of the New Year” at 12:04 am on New Year’s Day.

Elizabeth Hernandez and Gilbert Valencia were excited to welcome their baby girl to the family. Genesis Vanessa Valencia is now the youngest of seven siblings, joining her four sisters and two brothers in rounding out the family. She weighed in at 5 lbs. 13 oz. and is 19 inches long. Baby Genesis, delivered by Dr. Zarin Amin, OB/GYN, must have been waiting for the stroke of midnight to make her grand entry as her mom had been in labor for more than 36 hours.

Elizabeth and Gilbert were surprised and impressed when the Birthing Center staff presented them with their “First Baby of the New Year” gift of a Pack & Play filled with baby items to celebrate the occasion. She was especially complimentary of nurses Kayla and Sally for their care and comfort during her labor and delivery.

“It is always an honor for a hospital to welcome the first baby of the New Year,” said Mary Casillas, CEO, “on behalf of Hazel Hawkins Memorial Hospital, we wish the Hernandez/Valencia family a wonderful 2025!”

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L - R: Penny Cotter, RN Jennifer Dohl, RN, Katie Muenzer, RN, Kaylene Pankowski, RN, Elizabeth Hernandez, Gilbert Valencia



### **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](http://www.hazelhawkins.com).

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