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As the New Year Unfolds; A New Life Begins

Verdugo Hills Hospital Welcomes First Baby of the Year

(GLENDALE, CA – January 5, 2007) — Madelyne Aguimatang was supposed to be born on January 24 but she decided to arrive early, surprising both her parents and staff at Verdugo Hills Hospital, who did not expect her to be the first baby born in the New Year.

Weighing just six pounds and two-and-a-half ounces, little Madelyne made her entry into the world on January 3, at 9.30 a.m. Her parents, Teresa and Julius from Los Angeles, were thrilled with the arrival of their little baby girl, who sported a full head of Mohawk hair.

“We were actually preparing for our baby shower when I first started getting contractions,” said Teresa. “It was my first birth and, at the moment, I just can’t believe that it all went so smoothly and that it was over so quickly. I think the reality didn’t hit us until yesterday, when we were holding her, that we’re parents now. We feel very relieved, very happy!”

Julius said it is a little bit scary to think of himself as a father now but he is also particularly proud of himself for keeping the gender of the baby a secret for so long.

“I knew all along that we were going to have a baby girl,” Julius said. “My wife didn’t though, and it was one of the hardest secrets for me to keep. I did it for five months!”

As the happy couple prepared to leave the hospital for home, Teri Rice, the hospital’s family education program co-coordinator, and Rebecca Sollesa, office manager for the hospital’s Care At Home program, presented Teresa and Julius with a congratulatory gift basket.

The gift basket included toys, candy, books and \$100 worth of Mommy Care gift certificates. Mommy Care is an exciting new program at Verdugo Hills Hospital, which offers new mothers a home visit from a registered nurse and daily living assistance at home.

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The home visit component of the Mommy Care program is covered by most insurance plans but the daily living assistance component, which can include practical help at home with shopping, cleaning, laundry, bathing and baby-sitting, is offered on a fee-for-service basis only. The fee is \$20 per hour, for a minimum four-hour block, during the day or night.

For more information about Mommy Care, please call Care At Home at (818) 952-3575 or HomeCare at (818) 952-4663. Gift certificates can also be purchased at the hospital's Gift Shop on the 4th Floor, or on the hospital website at www.vhhospital.org.



Picture Caption: Teri Rice, the hospital's family education program co-ordinator, and Teresa Aguiatang with her daughter Madelyne and Rebecca Sollesa, office manager for the hospital's Care At Home program.

Verdugo Hills Hospital is a 158-bed nonprofit primary care facility nestled in the foothills between Glendale and La Cañada Flintridge. The hospital features all private rooms, 24-hour emergency services, comprehensive inpatient and outpatient diagnostic and treatment facilities, and a family birthing center. It is the only independent, free-standing hospital in the greater Foothills community and was voted "Glendale's Best Hospital" for 2006 by readers of the *Glendale News-Press*. Several physicians on staff received accolades too. Dr Jane Wada was voted "Best Dermatologist," Dr Jeffrey Nilles "Best Ophthalmologist," Dr James Henry "Best Pediatrician," Dr Brad Aguirre "Best Podiatrist" and Dr Samvel Hmayakyan "Best Family Practitioner." For more information, visit www.vhhospital.org.