



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Village of Harmony Hill

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### **The Village Offers New Technology for Memory Care Residents**

Thanks to an anonymous donation, The Village of Harmony Hill is the first in South Dakota to offer cutting-edge resident engagement technology called the Tovertafel to benefit its memory care residents.

Developed in the Netherlands, the Tovertafel (which is Dutch for magic table) is scientifically proven to have a positive impact on residents' quality of life. This award-winning, innovative technology uses light projections onto a table to create an immersive and interactive experience where participants play games that engage their skills in a fun way. It promotes connection between those living with dementia, care professionals, fellow residents, and family members.

"It is amazing to see the benefits of this technology in the short time we've had it. It can be very calming, yet interactive and engaging depending on the activity or game you choose," said Sarah Whitney, Memory Care Nurse Supervisor. "The smiles and laughs are wonderful to see and hear. It is rewarding to witness those who have a hard time with anxiety participating in games and truly enjoying themselves."

Research has shown that playing with Tovertafel can break through restless and tense behavior, as well as increase positive emotions in people living with dementia. Games are specifically designed for seniors living with dementia and are created for a wide range of cognitive abilities with varying levels of complexity. Tovertafel's interactive games can be played individually or in a larger group, promoting social interaction.

The Village was also gifted HUGs for use in Hope Terrace, The Village of Harmony Hill's Memory Care Neighborhood. A HUG is a soft, weighted device with a beating heart and music player made to be cuddled by people living with advanced dementia. HUGs have been shown to reduce feelings of anxiety and agitation, as well as enhance social interaction.

"Previously Marcene was often agitated, anxious, and upset in the afternoon. However, during our most recent visit, we sat around the Tovertafel. She was laughing, interacting, and having fun during our entire visit, plus my kids had a blast," said Jamie Lindner, relative of Hope Terrace resident. "She also loves her HUG and calls it her new little pet. She snuggles with it and talks to it. You can see that having something to love brings her a real sense of comfort."

There are currently very few products available that bring comfort and connection to the lives of people in the advanced stages of dementia. We are excited to introduce these groundbreaking, new technologies here at The Village thanks to our partnership with Eugeria, the company that distributes the Tovertafel and the HUG.

The Village of Harmony Hill offers support to residents and families navigating through their memory care journey. This includes daily routines, participation in daily tasks, and other engaging activities. Residents also receive assistance with the daily tasks of life (like managing medications, dressing, and bathing), as well as other services like housekeeping and dining. Residents have access to the 1/3-acre memory garden that is safe and secure, allowing residents to reconnect with nature in an outdoor space designed specifically with their needs in mind.

To learn more, please email Kelli Fritz at [create@villagewatertown.org](mailto:create@villagewatertown.org) or to make a donation to The Village of Harmony Hill, please visit [www.villagewatertown.org/donate](http://www.villagewatertown.org/donate).

*The Village of Harmony Hill offers state-of-the-art services for assisted living, memory care, rehabilitation, and hospice care. The Village of Harmony Hill is Phase 1 in the development of the Sisters of Mother of God Monastery's Legacy Project, Harmony Hill Watertown. To learn more about The Village, visit [www.villagewatertown.org](http://www.villagewatertown.org).*

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