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Home Care briefs for Tuesday, June 8

McKnight's Senior Living

Diane Eastabrook

Race is on to find in-home treatment for COVID-19 ... Michigan senior care leader Samaritas offering in-home assisted reality technology for dementia caregivers ... HandsFree Health joins Microsoft for startups program.

in-home assisted reality technology:

Samaritas, Netherlands-Based 1Minuut, and Glass Enterprise 2 to Ease the Burden on Dementia Caregivers with New Use for In-Home Assisted Reality Technology

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. and DETROIT, June 3, 2021 /PRNewswire/ -- [Samaritas](#) announced a partnership with Netherlands-based [1Minuut](#) and Google [Glass](#) to introduce in-home Assisted Reality Technology to care for older adults with dementia.

Samaritas is a large faith-based health and human services nonprofit in Michigan with more than 40 years of seniors care leadership. The Samaritas Caregiver Accessible Resources Education Services (C.A.R.E.S.) Program is the first dementia care program in the United States to deliver caregiver support using [Glass](#) Enterprise Edition 2 and 1Minuut's Genzō app.

1Minuut's Genzō app securely connects caregivers at home with a professional specialist located offsite. Genzō will run on Google Cloud. Glass is a small, lightweight non-medical wearable device with an at-a-glance display for hands-free work.

Samaritas and its tech partners believe the program will help extend the time older adults with dementia can live at home with loved ones. The technology allows family caregivers to communicate in real-time, with real-view. A professional off-site can see and hear what the caregiver sees and hears in order to provide instant support and advice on everything from behavioral challenges to home safety. Reduced caregiver stress and improved quality of health and life for older adults with dementia are anticipated program outcomes.

The Samaritas C.A.R.E.S. Program addresses the lack of innovative caregiver training globally, for both professional and family caregivers. Offering a certified, patient-focused, dementia-capable care program positions Samaritas as a leader in meeting this need.

"To fulfill our mission and our commitment to seniors, Samaritas has reached across the globe for the benefit of Michigan families," said Sam Beals, CEO of Samaritas. "We established the Samaritas C.A.R.E.S. Program to meet the needs of older adults living with dementia now *and* in the future by training loved ones and elder care providers. We focus on what they *can* do and enjoy, not what they've lost, which also helps reduce stress and burnout."

"Our goal is to support caregivers to assist older adults at home to maintain their independence as long as possible, while also reducing daunting health care costs, in a way that's more accessible than ever," added Beals.

Genzō is an all-in-one health care communication app, developed by 1Minuut, that is double encrypted to securely enable chat and video calling through Glass Enterprise Edition 2. C.A.R.E.S.-trained and certified Samaritas specialists coach professional and family caregivers of older adults with dementia directly from the caregivers' perspective with the built-in camera on the wearable Glass device, facilitated by the Genzō app.

"In the Netherlands, we have seen and proven how innovative technical solutions, like the pairing of Genzō with Glass, has transformed the quality of elder care in complex medical situations," said Martijn de Groot, co-owner of 1Minuut.

The Michigan Health Endowment Fund provided a grant of nearly \$500,000 to support training, program operation and purchase of technology to offer professional and family caregivers access to the C.A.R.E.S. Program at no cost during the pilot phase, which is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2021 in Grand Rapids before expanding to other cities throughout the state.

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