

Technology Catches Up to Dementia

By Jessica Derkis



“Robot cat” from Joy for All® Companion Pets looks real

Dementia can make aspects of day-to-day life more challenging for the person diagnosed and for those who care for them. Things like repeatedly mislaying keys or needing help with hygiene can be frustrating while others like being unsteady, leaving a gas stove on or driving can become dangerous.

Thankfully, architects, designers, caregivers and even innovative teens are starting to find technological means to overcome common safety concerns, improve social engagement and make caregiving less stressful.

For example, HPI Architects incorporated high ceilings, expansive windows and skylights into Kensington Place Redwood City to improve residents’ sleep/wake cycles. Outfitting every resident suite with the Sentry system

also discreetly monitors agitation, sleep habits, continence needs and more.

An open family-style kitchen boasts an induction cooktop that keeps food hot right through the beautiful granite countertop. The counter stays cool to residents’ sensitive hands. These are but a few well planned features that improve daily care for residents at Kensington Place.

Other tech, such as Someone to Love® therapeutic dolls and Joy for All® robotic pet companions have proven beneficial for those in later stages of the disease. Babies coo and gurgle and patiently endure clothing changes while cats purr, meow, cuddle, and wiggle without leaving their laps, needing treats or a litter box.

Families are also bonding and easing anxieties using recorded reminiscence therapy, interactive video calls and social media. Kensington Place uses ConnectedLiving® to keep residents and families connected with access to schedules, photos and more. There are also a few apps with friendly faces checking in on isolated seniors, ensuring meds are taken and that they’re well.

Whether high or low tech, it is good to know that there are great minds looking out for seniors and the challenges they face with Alzheimer’s and other types of dementia.

To learn more about Kensington Place of Redwood City, contact Jessica Derkis at 650.363.9200. KensingtonPlaceRedwoodCity.com.

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