

Shelby Sheehan: Well, for the elderly in our community, the virus has drastically limited their ability to be out and about. So, one local assisted living home has been working to keep their residents' R and R up with the technology. Zach Slotemaker joins us live from Stone Valley Assisted Living Home with a closer look at how the technology is helping residents de-stress during all of this.

Zac Slotemaker: Yeah, good evening, Joe and Shelby. It's doing more than just stress relief actually. By using virtual reality, [00:00:30] residents here suffering from memory loss are able to begin remembering parts of their life because of this technology. Right now, most of these residents are not able to have visitors, which is usually their family members, sad to hear but a necessary precaution at this time. And according to the Stone Valley, a major part of a resident's lifestyle is reliant on routine, which has been altered because of the coronavirus. Residents can no longer go on nature drives, which helps to jog memory, keep the mind moving, [00:01:00] and reinforce that routine. With virtual reality goggles, they can be anywhere, and even recall memories that they have since forgotten.

Tim Grafton: ... reason, scenes of nature. They put on the goggles. We had a resident that was looking at the beach and just, wow, starts talking about, "Oh, I remember a trip. That looks like the beach we went to with my family, and my little one lost her hat. And we spent the entire day looking for the hat." And just the smile that comes across their face and that good feeling that carries over [00:01:30] from that little experience.

Zac Slotemaker: Another thing is technology does is help residents share their experience so staff can hear those experiences and then connect with those experiences down the road. Live in Northwest, Reno, Zac Slotemaker reporting.