This relationship between individuals with dementia and their caregivers showed improvement resulting in less stressful interactions. Volunteers noted an improved perception of individuals with dementia after participating in the program, helping to reduce the stigma of the disease. Implementing at 10 memory care facilities, this award-winning program encourages oral reading, browsing through highly illustrated books, and conversation through imaginary trips to locations across the globe. The monthly hour-long program is delivered by volunteers and library staff.

Check-out kits are also available for personal or professional caregivers to use with diagnosed persons. Libraries are encouraged to replicate this program using 12 prepackaged “excursions” available at the Tales and Travel website http://talesandtravelmemories.com/about/. A video of the program in action is also available at the website.

The Library Memory Project is a partnership between 8 public libraries in the Milwaukee and Waukesha counties of Wisconsin. The partner libraries take turns hosting monthly Memory Cafes, which are social gatherings for those who are experiencing early stage dementia, mild memory loss or mild cognitive impairment, and a family member or care partner. The Cafes serve as places to have fun, find support, and share experiences. Find more information at www.librarymemoryproject.org.

The goal of the program is to expose residents to new technology and stimulate their minds and memory by playing games on library iPads. This unique program is a great way to interact with a wonderful segment of our community so deserving of fun and engagement while they live with memory loss and Alzheimer’s. For more information go to http://www.ala.org/pla/onlinelearning/webinars/ondemand/memory.

Selected Resources