

Wander detection and long-distance care

From 'watching' to 'letting go'

A stone's throw from Wijchen, on the edge of the historic village of Leur, is the location of WoonZorgboerderij De Hagert. This is where demented elderly people or people with an intellectual impairment from the municipality of Wijchen and Land van Maas en Waal can go to receive 24-hour care and daytime activities and day-care. Since the end of 2010, De Hagert has been doing what other institutions can only dream of: it offers residents the possibility to independently walk outside in the yard on their own initiative. The wander detection of VieDome is one of the reasons why this is possible.



Losing sight

Severely demented patients going outside for some fresh air whenever they feel like it. It sounds almost too good to be true. It takes a lot of work to make such a system work optimally. There are hardly any complications in a technical sense, but for care providers it is a big step to work with wander detection. They will need to get used to a lack of overview; to literally lose sight of the residents. Whereas they were used to keeping an eye on the residents constantly.

Working = learning

De Hagert aims to provide as much freedom as possible to its residents and constantly pushes the limit. This is also included in the farm's vision: 'Yes, unless' or: in principle, everything is possible. This is strengthened by another principle: 'working = learning' In other words: things are allowed to go wrong now and then. Naturally, the families of the demented residents are expected to have the same attitude.

Wander detection in two zones

Two zones have been created for the wander detection of De Hagert. The first is bordered by the front doors of the three resident units for residents with dementia. If a resident remains too long at one of the doors, the caretakers will receive a signal on the wireless phone.

The second zone is outside, bordered by the edge of the yard between the three buildings of De Hagert. Nine of the eighteen residents with dementia who are allowed to go outside, may do so freely, but when they pass by one of the two access ways between the buildings, the caretakers receive a signal. It is technically made possible by implementing a small box in both access ways that can 'see' when someone with a sender - a tag - in their shoes passes by, after which the group leaders are given a signal informing them of that event. The same technology has been used at the three front doors, in that case for people who are not allowed outside and who are wearing a 'no tag' in their shoes.

Long-distance care

Besides wander detection, De Hagert uses the care centre of VieDome, which is located about twenty kilometres further. The Care centre is operated by a permanent staff of six people whose job it is to keep on eye on the many locations with intellectually impaired residents. De Hagert was the first location with demented residents that is supervised in this way. The care centre can 'listen' per bedroom if necessary and can follow on floor plan panels which doors open where. If something happens, the local night service is notified immediately.

Open community

Whilst it is possible to use cameras in all bedrooms, De Hagert does not use cameras anywhere. Still, engineering has made it possible to achieve more safety and freedom. De Hagert sees the wander detection as a way to achieve an open community. "That is what we always wanted; residents with a chip moving to the yard, where everybody can walk!"

Options domotica De Hagert

- Fire alarm
- Resident alarm
- Staff alarm
- Listening and camera system in bedrooms
- Sensors near the beds
- Automatically closing outside doors
- Wander detection



Care, safety and comfort in one domotica solution.

VieDome has proven itself as a platform with which care and welfare organisations, housing corporations, municipalities and other care providers can offer their services to clients and residents in an accessible way. VieDome facilitates the supply of convenience, comfort and care services, from its own organisation as well as from joint initiatives. Optimal freedom of choice for residents, more efficient care and added attention for clients has always been crucial for VieDome.

*VieDome
in the Netherlands*

