



LAKEMARY
CENTER

2025 Impact Report

WWW.LAKEMARY.ORG
PAOLA, KS | OLATHE, KS



Special Olympics Kansas

50–60 Lakemary adult
athletes participated in
athletic competition

- Basketball
- Cheerleading
- Track & Field

12 Lakemary children
competed

- Track & Field



What's **NEW** at Lakemary

Spring Highlights

As we move through spring, there's exciting progress underway at Lakemary. Here are a few updates about what's happening across our programs and plans for the future:

- **Budget + Strategic Plan:** We're finalizing our FY '25-'26 budget and launching a new three-year Strategic Plan. Staff across the organization are actively shaping both efforts.
- **Wellness Program Launch:** Staff are engaging in gym memberships, a walking challenge, and a 5K Run Walk.
- **Johnson County Expansion:** A new project committee is exploring a consolidated site in Johnson County to bring multiple programs under one roof. Early planning is underway.
- **Advocacy:** Jean Hoyt, Chief Program Officer, Children Services and I traveled to Washington the week of May 12 to meet with members of Congress and advocate for critical funding, including Medicare-related support. We had productive, face-to-face meetings with key decision makers to discuss the challenges facing organizations like Lakemary and the individuals we support.

We're grateful for the continued support of our Lakemary community. Whether you're a family member, staff member, donor, or friend—you're helping us build a stronger, more connected future for the children and adults we support.



With heartfelt gratitude,

Teddi Hernandez
President & CEO

Adults in Lakemary's
Residential Living program

Boots & Bowties



Lakemary Center's Boots & Bowties was an unforgettable evening of great food, lively music, and generous giving. Guests enjoyed delicious BBQ from Joe's KC and danced to the music of Midnight Rodeo. The event was an overwhelming success, raising over \$150,000 to support Lakemary's mission and the individuals we serve. We want to thank Straub Construction, our generous sponsors and everyone who made this event successful. We can't wait to see you next year on April 20th!



Lakemary Center Executive Team
(L to R) Jean Hoyt, Chief Program Officer, Children Services, Janet Broll, Chief Operating Officer, Tracy Price, Chief Program Officer Adult Services, Michelle Erickson, Chief Financial Officer, Teddi Hernandez, President & CEO. Not pictured, Brent Kaempfe, Chief Employee Relations Officer



Presenting Sponsor, Straub Construction. Matthew & Kathleen Straub

EXPLORERS

The Explorers program & micro teams were created to support Lakemary's Strategic Plan. Teams were cross disciplined and tasked with creating growth opportunities for Lakemary Center. Business strategies were presented to Lakemary's Board of Directors and funding was approved for three programs.



MEANINGFUL Employment Matters

Lakemary's creative enrichment program, **True Colors Collective**, provides meaningful employment opportunities for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities by empowering them to create original artwork. Participants transform their creativity into products such as notecards, prints, and stickers. These items are sold at Lakemary's Paola and Olathe campuses, as well as at local festivals and art shows. The program not only fosters artistic expression but also promotes inclusion and independence through purposeful work.

Turning aluminum cans into new possibilities!

Our aluminum can recycling program is a meaningful initiative that promotes sustainability while providing valuable skill-building opportunities for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. As part of their day service program, participants collect, sort, and prepare aluminum cans for recycling, contributing actively to their community. We are proud to partner with Topgolf, whose ongoing support enhances our mission and provides inclusive community engagement opportunities. This partnership demonstrates how collaboration can create lasting impact through environmental stewardship and social inclusion.



Lakemary's Employee Wellness

Employee wellness is a top priority, and we are committed to fostering a culture of health and well-being. Our program includes access to mental health therapy, personalized health coaching, and



discounted gym memberships to support physical and emotional wellness. Another key initiative is EQ2, a specialized training program designed to support our children's program staff who work with trauma-impacted youth by offering tools for social and emotional regulation. These efforts reflect our dedication to the well-being of both our employees and the communities they serve.

Pictured above: Lakemary employees enjoy a presentation on Basic Nutrition by Franny Eastwood, MS, MPH, RD, LD with the KSU Extension office in Marais de Cygnes.



EVERY child no matter their ability deserves a playground

Lakemary Center is thrilled to announce the groundbreaking of our new inclusive playground, sport court and musical gardens, designed to enrich the lives of the children and adults we support. These vibrant, accessible spaces will offer opportunities for play, creativity, and connection for individuals of all abilities. We extend our deepest gratitude to our generous donors—this exciting project would not be possible without your unwavering support.

Lakemary School Graduation

Graduation at Lakemary Center is a time of celebration and pride as we honor the accomplishments of our remarkable students. This year, on May 20th, eleven students graduated, marking a significant milestone in their educational journeys. Surrounded by families, staff, and peers, the ceremony recognized each graduate's hard work, growth, and perseverance. We are incredibly proud of their achievements and excited for the new opportunities that await them beyond Lakemary.



SIGN UP BY JUNE 7TH!
FREE T-SHIRT!



REGISTER

TO THE STARS
5K FUN RUN & WALK

BENEFITING



LAKEMARY CENTER
PARTNERING WITH
PAOLA
Recreation Commission

SATURDAY JUNE 28, 2025
8:00AM | PAOLA TOWN SQUARE

- ▶ **\$25 LAKEMARY CENTER EMPLOYEE**
DISCOUNT INCLUDES FAMILY MEMBERS OF LAKEMARY EMPLOYEES
REACH OUT TO LAKEMARY EMPLOYEE WELLNESS FOR DISCOUNT CODE.
- ▶ **\$30 PERSON**
- ▶ **\$40 RACE DAY**

General Public Transportation

Lakemary's transportation department has been a proud provider to the Paola community for many years. Residents were provided with affordable round-trip transportation in Johnson and Miami counties. We would like to thank everyone who used this service. As of **June 30, 2025** the transportation program will no longer be offered to the community. Lakemary has chosen to align each of our programs with our core mission to continue offering and providing the best care to the children and adults we support.