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PROMISE YOURSELF

RP SUNRISE OPTIMIST, NOVEMBER 4, 2025

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Lakemary Center: A Beacon of Hope and Lifelong Support for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities

Mike Sanders shared a moving presentation about *Lakemary Center*, a nationally recognized nonprofit based in *Paola, Kansas*, just 32 miles south of the Kansas City metro. With nearly 30 years of volunteer service, Mike's insights highlighted the heart and impact of Lakemary's mission: providing comprehensive services for children and adults with *autism spectrum disorder* and other *intellectual and developmental disabilities*.

Founded in 1969, Lakemary Center has grown into a *model of excellence*, supporting over *450 individuals and their families* across 13 states. The Paola campus spans *32 acres*, including a *Therapy Ranch*, and currently houses *70 full-time child residents*, with *22 from Missouri*. The *K-12 school* serves *190 students*, more than half of whom commute daily.

What sets Lakemary apart is its *post-graduation commitment*. While most states end services at age 18, Lakemary offers a *mandatory three-year life skills program* to help young adults transition into meaningful, supported independence. This bridge is vital for those who cannot mainstream into traditional adult education or employment.

Lakemary also operates *17 adult residential homes* in Johnson County, KS, with *3,100 Kansans* and *4,700 Missourians* currently on waiting lists.

Adults supported by Lakemary are thriving in community jobs at places like *Garmin, McDonald's*, and Lakemary's own *Shredding Company*. These opportunities reflect Lakemary's belief in *dignity through inclusion and purpose*.

To maintain its 24/7 care model, Lakemary must hire *20 new staff* for every *five children* added to the program. The government provides a *\$26,900/month subsidy per child*, underscoring the level of care and resources required. With *centers in 13 states*, Lakemary continues to expand its reach and redefine what lifelong support can look like.

Learn more or get involved at lakemary.org.

High Five Report!

We have a 100% Member Participation Goal for Dime-A-Day Donations of \$36.50. Contact Joe O'Neal at jonealnbct5@gmail.com to make your donation.

64 Members Goal \$2336
1. Aliano, Janet
2. Circo, Connie
3. Circo, Tom
4. Eftink, Gerry
5. Huston, Bob
6. Huston, Jodie
7. Klein, Alan
8. Kopetsky, Eleanor
9. Kopetsky, Jim
10. O'Neal, Joe
11. Rich, Greg
12. Sanders, Mike
13. Sanders, Richard
14. Sanders, Shari
15. Turnbow, Kris
16. Woolf, Denise

These individuals worked magic at today's meeting!



Janet Aliano, Steele Chamberlain, Connie Circo, Tom Circo, Bob Huston, Jodi Huston, Frank Jiminez, Pete Kerckhoff, Renee Kerckhoff, Alan Klein, Dave McDougal, Brian Mills, Joe O'Neal, Mike Sanders, Richard Sanders, Kris Turnbow, Denise Woolf

Denise Woolf is doing a Happy Dance because Tom Circo agreed to Chair the Oratorical Contest AND Brian Mills is Chairing the Essay Contest



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Upcoming Events see <https://raypecsunriseoptimists.com> for details

Sat 11/8 – Volunteers needed to man tables from 10-2pm at Price Choppers in Raymore & Peculiar selling raffle tickets for \$500 gift card from Price Chopper

Tue 11/11 – Veterans Day! Recognizing members of our club that have served in the military

Wed 11/12 – SAVE THE DATE! 6:30 pm Graduation Ceremony for Youth Court Trainees at historic courthouse on the square, Harrisonville

Thu 11/13 – SAVE THE DATE! Art Competition at Ray Pec High School, 14 area schools are competing for awards.

Tue 11/18 – Students of the Month and Optimist Member Spotlight –

Tue 11/25 – Thanksgiving - Breakfast with friends! If you are staying around town for the holidays, join us for a casual breakfast. Bring a friend

11/24-11/28 – Ray Pec School District Closed for Holiday

PROMISE YOURSELF

To be **SO STRONG** that nothing can disturb your peace of mind

To talk **health, happiness and prosperity** to every person you meet.

To make all your friends feel that **THERE IS SOMETHING IN THEM**

To look at the **sunny side** of everything and make your optimism come true.

To think only of the best, to **work** only for the best and to expect only the best.

To be just as enthusiastic about the **success** of others as you are about your own.

To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the **GREATER ACHIEVEMENTS** of the future.

To wear a cheerful countenance **at all times** and give every living creature you meet a smile.

To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have **NO TIME TO CRITICIZE OTHERS.**

To be too large for worry, too noble for anger too strong for fear and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

