

Lakemary Center nominates



InterHab's 2023 Outstanding Business Award



Nominated by:

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Lakemary Center Nominates GARMIN for InterHab's 2023 Outstanding Business Award

Garmin has partnered with Lakemary since 2017 when we initiated a trial work team in their Reverse Logistics department. Two work teams of three or four individuals (morning and afternoon shifts) disassemble and sort returns in the company's international headquarters in Olathe, Kansas. Initially scheduled for a three-day week, Lakemary's work teams have grown multiple times over the years to include additional areas, increased responsibilities and expanded shifts.

The partnership has been a wonderful success and continues to grow each year. "Being able to work with the Lakemary associates is a joy. They bring a positive attitude each day and willingness to learn something new when the opportunity arises," said Rebecca Baldwin, Reverse Logistics Coordinator for Garmin International.

Our individuals love the work and the prestige of being a part of the Garmin community. "Garmin is the holy grail of Lakemary's work sites. Our individuals love feeling a part of Garmin! The work they do is interesting and fun," said Brooke De Negri, Day Services Coordinator for Lakemary. This collaboration has been successful for our work teams and for Garmin also. "Working at Garmin is an honor; they treat our guys so well and they enjoy the work and being part of the Garmin family," Brooke said.

Garmin leadership have been very impressed with Lakemary's workforce also. When Garmin first challenged Lakemary's work team with disassembling and sorting a large collection of aviation equipment, they estimated it would take four months to complete. The Lakemary crew completed the work in two weeks!

Lakemary teams continue to work with aviation, marine and land pieces and have learned some of the intricacies of the equipment along the way. With each new challenge, Lakemary and Garmin partner together for continued success.

Garmin's leadership team and staff goes out of their way to make Lakemary teams feel welcomed, appreciated, and well-trained for their work. Lakemary associates are trained alongside Garmin's employees and regularly attend safety meetings, staff gatherings and other events. Lakemary teams are treated just like every other employee at Garmin – even included in holiday parties and staff appreciation events. Our teams have made friends with other Garmin employees and are welcomed daily upon arrival. When questions arise, Garmin team members are eager to lend assistance. "It's a wonderful place for our individuals to work! They feel very much a part of Garmin's culture, teamwork and are proud of their wages and what they accomplish for the company each day," Brooke added.

In addition to employing an ever-growing number of our adults, Garmin International is a loyal donor to Lakemary's fundraising efforts. The company supports our annual gala and golf tournament by their financial contributions, gifts-in-kind and staff attendance. Our two organizations continue to grow the partnership, Garmin is encouraging and hopeful for additional work teams from Lakemary. "Garmin is a great example of how inclusivity can work for everyone! We are grateful for the work, and they are impressed with the Lakemary teams and all we accomplish!" Brooke said.