

To: Interhab Awards Selection Committee

Outstanding Personal Growth Award Nomination

Lakemary Center would like to nominate Shawn Stewart for the Outstanding Personal Growth award. Shawn Stewart started supports at Lakemary in 1994. He has lived in many environmental settings from congregate living to his own apartment. Shawn has struggled throughout his life with feeling a sense of belonging and love that comes with familiar support. Lakemary has been Shawn's family since 1994 but that is no substitute. When Shawn was living in his apartment, he struggled to get his emotional and social needs met without engaging in self-destructive actions that would often result in crisis support at the emergency room or police involvement. Shawn advocated for himself through his actions that he would like to live somewhere with more staff and roommates.

After Shawn moved into a 24-hour support environment, the incidents of self-destructive behavior continued. Until Shawn learned with staff support, to express how he felt with his words. Now, Shawn uses his words instead of using his physical actions to express his emotions. Shawn can often be heard saying "I feel...". Since then, Shawn has minimal interactions with medical professionals or law enforcement. Shawn has grown from being always engaged with staff to going to church independently and visiting with his friends at the Olathe fire station. Shawn has repaired a relationship with his best friend and ex -wife. They are inseparable now and support each other through their challenging days. Shawn recently recognized that a friend of his was experiencing a medical emergency during dinner, he alerted the staff which resulted in prompt emergency response.

Shawn is naturally fun loving, jovial and quite charming. We have seen him grow to adapt to his challenges and understand his emotions. If you're lucky, he even leaves you voicemails of him singing "you are my sunshine".

Name of Person Making Nomination: Anna Mae Van Petten/ Heather Parreira/ Tracy Price

Organization: Lakemary Center

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