

# Relay for Life event successful in spite of rain

Special to The Clinton Courier

Relay for Life of Hinds County held its annual event on Friday, April 12, to raise funds in the fight against cancer. Keeping in line with this year's theme, Passport to a Cure - One World, One Hope, approximately twenty countries were represented by various teams made up of schools, churches, civic groups, organizations and friends, who participated in spite of the rain and having to relocate the event indoors. Teams decorated, prepared food, and hosted on-site fundraisers, all consistent with the theme. The evening was filled with lot of activities and entertainment, such as the Hinds Rock Band, the Hinds Hi Steppers, a demonstration by nine-year-old reptile enthusiast Crocodile Carson, as well as other performance groups and activities throughout the night.

For the event, teams have a representative walking on the track at all times to symbolize that they will nev-



er stop fighting until a cure for cancer is found. The highlight of the evening is the Luminaria Ceremony. Luminaria bags are purchased in honor or in memory of a loved one. During the ceremony, the bags light the walking path, and each name is read aloud. The ceremony concludes with a silent lap around the track, giving participants time to reflect and remember why they keep fighting.

The final total has not been calculated, but this year's event should raise close to \$40,000 for the American

Cancer Society (ACS) to continue its mission to support those with a cancer diagnosis and to help find a cure. One example of how the funds are used is right here in Jackson. ACS recently opened the Hope Lodge. This facility is a home away from home for patients undergoing cancer treatments in Jackson. The lodge has thirty-two rooms, a fully functioning kitchen, and offers free lodging to cancer patients and a caregiver during their treatments.

Planning will begin in the fall for next year's Relay for Life event. For more information about forming a team or being a part of future events, @RFLHindsCountyMS on Facebook or email [chris.lloyd@cancer.org](mailto:chris.lloyd@cancer.org).



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