

Since 2015 the Clinton Department of Therapeutic Recreation has been able to claim each year to be a record-breaking year in programming. With 15,485 total participants in 2019, the word record-breaking is definitely fitting for 2019 as well. Topping the previous year's numbers by nearly 2,000 participants can be attributed to three things: 1) growing knowledge of department programming 2) increased participation from existing participants and 3) new program offerings.

Programming grew across the board for the department. The Challenger League program grew in every sport, with the largest area of growth being in Challenger League Bowling. This growth warranted an additional time slot to be offered in order to accommodate the group of more than eighty (80) bowlers. For the Living Young program, the always popular seniorsize class added forty-four (44) new registrants alone, thus increasing its weekly average by about 10%. A total of seventy (70) new-comers have been added to the Living Young mailing lists, making the total for receiving the quarterly newsletter via email or paper mail reach more than 800, with 100+ additional newsletters being given to individuals not included on either list each quarter.

A third employee was added to the Department of Therapeutic Recreation in 2019 as well. A full time/part time Program Assistant position allows for program offerings to continue to grow and expand in the coming year. The 2006 Dodge Caravan featuring a drooping headliner attached by clear thumb tacs, bleached carpeting and a sound that could be heard from about a block away, was replaced by an updated newer model.

Strong partnerships were developed in 2019 which attributes to the department's ability to offer free and low-cost programs for those serve. Partnerships with organizations like Humana for the Colorful Devotionals Group and with Pure Joy, Inc. for the Co-Op program allowed the department to gain state-wide recognition in the area of therapeutic recreation. These programs along with the Annual Sweetheart Formal earned a spot on the Department's "Wall of Fame" with 16 other awards given by the Mississippi Recreation and Park Association for outstanding programming over the years.

Still standing tall as the only Therapeutic Recreation department run by a municipality and the only department in the state with two Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialists on staff, holds the department in position to continue to set the standard for up and coming departments in Mississippi.