

Norma Rosenthal named Mendel's Volunteer of Year

BENTON HARBOR — During its 24th annual volunteer appreciation party on July 12, The Mendel Center at Lake Michigan College named Stevensville resident Norma Rosenthal its 2015-16 Volunteer of the Year.

She was recognized for her efforts from among a group of more than 100 active Mainstage volunteers.

“Norma is a consistently positive and professional volunteer,” said Grace Kelmer, Mendel Center front of house manager. “She greets every patron with a smile and looks for ways to make their visit at The Mendel Center an outstanding experience. Norma takes a personal approach to her interactions with patrons, and connects especially well with children.”

Rosenthal became a Mendel Center volunteer in 2004.

During her 12 years of service, she has not only lent her time and energy to better the patron experience during performances, but she also has been a regular volunteer for the Economic Club of Southwestern Michigan events.

She is an integral part



Photo provided

Norma Rosenthal, at left, stands with Front of House Manager Grace Kelmer after Rosenthal was recognized as The Mendel Center's Volunteer of the Year.

of the playbill team that meets the day before every Mainstage performance to prepare up to 1,500 playbills for distribution, according to a news release.

In her acceptance speech, Rosenthal shared some of her favorite things about being an usher. Among them are seeing children coming to shows dressed up and assisting handicapped patrons.

Several volunteers received services awards during the party. They were Betty Howard and Barb Radewald for 20 years of service; Linda Barker for 15 years of service; and Bill Oleson, Janet Oleson, Brenda Bickers, Gini Frank, Norma Nisbet, Lenore Taylor, Doug Tjernlund, Linda Tjernlund, LaVerne Wilhite, JoAnn Wolter, Marie Koenig, Bob McMillen,

Bonnie McMillen, Ron Vandermeer and Karen Vandermeer for 10 years of service.

The annual appreciation event celebrates the volunteers who staff nearly 100 Mendel Center and community events each year.

Those interested in joining the The Mendel Center volunteer team can contact Kelmer at gkelmer@lakemichigancollege.edu or 927-8193.