

Mendel Center names top volunteer

BENTON HARBOR — Sammie Bale of Benton Harbor was named the Mendel Center Mainstage 2014-15 Volunteer of the Year during the college's 23rd annual volunteer appreciation party.

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

"Sammie has taken true ownership of the Mendel Center experience by creating a fun, friendly, helpful atmosphere for patrons," said Autumn Pelkey,

Mendel Center operations manager. "Her cheerful, approachable demeanor makes patrons immediately feel welcome."

Nominated by The Mendel Center staff for the award, Bale is new to the volunteer team, having joined in 2014.

A native of Southwest Michigan, Bale returned to the area



BALE

recently after living in Chicago and Los Angeles.

In addition to her volunteer work with the Mendel Center, she donates time to the Humane Society of Southwestern Michigan.

Several other volunteers also received service awards: Erna Felgner, Kitty Fisher, Debra Friday, Barbara Klein, Joyce Klemm, Charlotte Martin, Camille Sandel, Warren Seabury, Cecelia Seabury and Linda Timm for 20 years of service; Barb Pullins for 15 years of ser-

vice, and Marie Suzor and Jackie Witt for 10 years of service.

The annual appreciation event celebrates the work of the volunteers who staff nearly 100 LMC and community events each year.

Mainstage volunteers are responsible for ensuring patron safety, ushering, patron assistance and other assignments related to day-of-show operations.

Those interested in joining the volunteer corps can contact Grace Kelmer, front of house manager, at 927-8116.