

Volunteer is still working after 60 years

Five Southfield women with a total of 125 years of service between them are Red Cross volunteers are Pearl Koloway, Mrs. Julius Allen, Phyllis Cohen, Mrs. Milton J. Rosenthal and Lillian Rosenthal.

But the champion of them all is Opal Held, a Berkley resident, still actively volunteering for the Red Cross after 60 years of service.

Way back in 1918, she was a young volunteer who sat patiently knitting socks for soldiers during World War I. Like millions of her compatriots, Opal Held was part of the effort to support a war that promised to make the world "safe for democracy."

"We all believed that this would be the war to end all wars," said Mrs. Held. But 60 years and two full-scale wars later, she remains an active Red Cross volunteer.

Recently, she was awarded a pin for her years of volunteer service at a ceremony celebrating Red Cross Volunteer and Staff Recognition.

According to records at the Red Cross Southeastern Michigan Chapter, the 81-year-old volunteer is the first person in the chapter's history to be cited for 60 years of service.

ASKED WHY she has remained loyal to the organization for so long, she explains that she has "a basic interest in what Red Cross does. It

makes you feel you are a little of what is worthwhile in the world."

During her six decades of service, Mrs. Held's focus has been largely on the blood service, where she helps out at the Oak Park Donor Center by registering blood donors, serving refreshments and labeling blood containers.

"I can do anything relating to the blood program," she proudly stated.

A retired teacher, Mrs. Held continues her volunteer interests with her

professional life in a "hands across the water" policy she instituted when she was a teaching in South Bend, Indiana.

Between the two World Wars, her high school classes exchanged scrapbooks with students in Krakow, Poland, who were members of a Red Cross club similar to theirs.

"We thought it was a good way to better world relations," suggests Mrs. Held.

A past president and 48-year mem-

ber of the American Association of University Women, she spent the first 18 years of her career in classroom teaching, and she served as a counselor for the remaining 17 years.

Mrs. Held earned a bachelor of phi-

losophy degree from the University of Chicago in 1929, and a master of arts in guidance and personnel from Columbia University in 1934.

She has been active in Church Women United for the past 30 years.

Southfield woman elected JNF leader

Reba Bloom, a Southfield woman with 25 years of work in Jewish National Fund (JNF) behind her, has assumed the leadership of the group.

Mrs. Bloom was installed as president of the Women of JNF at the annual installation meeting recently. She succeeds Diane Levine, who served as president for three years.

Mrs. Bloom has held many JNF offices, including treasurer, secretary and chairwoman of the board.

Coming to Southfield from Philadelphia in 1953, she and her husband, Irving, have been active in the community since. She is a member of the Sinai Hospital Guild and Women's American ORT.

Women of JNF has a membership of about 1,000 and is one of the most active JNF women's groups in the country. Organized some 37 years ago, the group's donor events have become highlights in the community. Nearly \$250,000 has been raised in cooperation

with Young Women of JNF for a youth camp in the American Bicentennial Park in Israel.

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