

Lilah Bidwell

Human Dignity Award Namesake

(June 27, 1930 – April 7, 2007)

Lilah Bidwell was a loving mother to five of her own children and hundreds of community members. She always had a passion for advocacy, especially for children. She believed that one person could make a difference, and spent her life standing for causes and people she believed in. Lilah was always moving to make our community a better place for all, showing us true human dignity!

Lilah was involved in many causes and organizations, including being a/n: advocate with the Human Rights Advocates of Coos County (HRACC); founding member of SCUUF (South Coast Unitarian Universalists Fellowship), AKA UU, including being President, board member, program planner, secretary, standing committee member, and liaison to CoastWatch; board member of SHAMA (Self Help and Mental Aid) House starting at the clubhouses' inception in 2000; democratic advocate on the Democratic National Committee; environmental activist - actively involved in the "No LNG" campaign; helped with the curriculum for the "No Bullying in School"; founding member of the Friends of Coos Bay Library; member of the League of Women Voters of Coos County; Board President of Star of Hope in 1979, and served on the board until 1990; active member of PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays); founding member of the Egyptian Theatre Preservation Association; active in Stand for Children; member of AARP Tax Aides; member of Coos Bay Eagles Women's Auxiliary; worked with Special Olympics; respite care; member of Friends of Shore Acres; Foster Parent; and involved with the Mental Health Association.