

## United Way Nominates Lin Silvan for *Volunteer of the Year Award*

Hundreds of Eugeneans were introduced to EVEN and its vegan education and outreach efforts when United Way honored Lin Silvan at their Annual *Volunteer of the Year Award* luncheon at the Eugene Hilton on April 19, 2012. Donating hundreds of hours per month, all unpaid, since 2005, it was encouraging and heartwarming to have a group like United Way recognize EVEN's efforts.

Lin was in a category called "**Essentials for Life**" which was the category that emphasizes education and information that helps others.

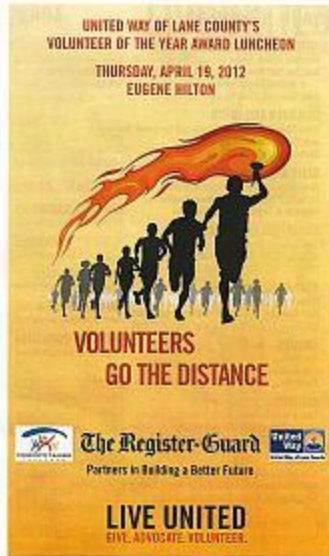
This is what they said when announcing the nomination:

**Lin Silvan** is Founder and Executive Director of EVEN, the **Eugene Veg Education Network**. EVEN has been serving as a vegan resource since 2005 offering information and assistance to those interested in the benefits of a plant-based diet.

Since 2005, Lin has reached tens of thousands with information and guidance to help them transition to a healthful, compassionate, and eco-conscious lifestyle. Lin has become the vegan voice within the community helping to show the connection between diet, sustainability, health, peace, and compassion for the animals.

Lin works more than full-time, volunteering all of her time and energy to vegan education and outreach. She answers email inquiries, hosts speakers for educational presentations, tables and leaflets to distribute vegan material, writes relevant e-newsletters, and maintains an active and informative website. In the past year alone, she has donated over 2,400 hours, and has done so since 2005, volunteering 2,000 to 3,000 hours per year.





Of all the ways she could be spending her retirement, there is none for which she has a greater passion and drive than to advocate for the animals, for the planet, and for the natural health to which our bodies are always aspiring. Lin is well known locally and nationally for her determined and steadfast contributions toward creating a better planet.

As part of EVEN's charter, Lin continuously helps and actively supports other local businesses and individuals working toward similar goals.

Robert Jacobucci says, "*Lin is determined and tenacious in achieving EVEN's goals. EVEN owes its existence and direction to Lin, one extremely dedicated individual. Because of her commitment and drive, EVEN has made substantial inroads in the vegan community locally and beyond.*"

Before founding EVEN, Lin spent many volunteer hours in other non-profit pursuits as a Foster Parent, a Master Recycler, and working with Habitat for Humanity.

Lin is an excellent example of what can be accomplished with minimal resources, enthusiasm and a generosity of spirit.

Although not the final winner, Lin was thrilled that veganism was made center stage for such a large, community-minded audience. EVEN and its website have been receiving a lot of attention ever since. As more people are introduced to the benefits that a vegan lifestyle offers, we will have a win-win-win! Win for the animals, win for the planet, and win for individual health.



The tide is turning!