

# YMCA

continued from page 1

tem in a nonprofit organization, such as the YMCA.

"We wanted to offer the program through nonprofit organizations because they can offer services at a lower rate," Anne Fowler said. "It opens up the market for more families [than Sylvan Learning Centers did]."

Coons said starting these programs was something she was very interested in.

"I took a class on evaluating franchises at Umpqua Community College," she said. "Right around this time, Berry's company was just starting to sell franchises, and I fell in love with the program."

Coons said she and her husband went through extensive training, much like the training Redwine received, to learn about the program itself and how to manage the franchise. The Coons also provide all the materials, curricula and furniture necessary to run the academy.

They then approached the Eugene YMCA, the Roseburg YMCA and Boys and Girls Club, and the Medford YMCA and Boys and Girls Club with the program. The Eugene YMCA was the first to respond.

"I spoke to all the different places at the same time and Eugene responded quickly," Coons said. "They saw something that was good for the community, and they went for it."

Redwine said this program will



Leah Redwine helps a math student at the YMCA learn about the wonders of fractions. Tom Patterson Emerald

aid youth who just need that extra bit of help.

"It's not that teachers aren't doing a good job, but that some kids just need extra help," Redwine said.

Despite the program's low cost, many students' families cannot afford the learning centers, Redwine said. Coons said she has spoken to Redwine about offering scholarships, and the process has already begun.

Once the Coons establish three programs, they will use individuals for working with foundations to

generate scholarships.

"We hope for every 100 kids, we can give 25 of those kids scholarships," Coons said.

Redwine said it was a real eye-opener to see how many kids can't afford even a more affordable tutoring program, but she hopes scholarships can expose more kids to the help they need.

"Every kid I work with leaves with a smile on their face," Redwine said. "We're trying to create a comfortable environment for these kids."

# APASU

continued from page 1

continue to stay in touch with the APASU students involved in the program as she gets older.

Susan Soon-keum Cox, the vice president of Holt International Children's Services, said while adopted families can provide love and support for their children, they

cannot always provide racial and ethnic cultural connections. She said programs such as APASU's are important because they educate families as well as members of the community.

"I think that it is very important that international children have the opportunity to stay connected to their birth culture and identity," Cox said.

Hong said even though she will

be studying in Asia and Italy next year, APASU plans to continue the Big Brother Big Sister program under new leadership.

APASU is hosting several events aside from Big Brother Big Sister program activities during May's Asian Heritage Month. More information about the program or other events this month is available through APASU in Suite 29 of the EMU or at 346-4342.

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