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Registration for the denomination's first large-scale National Young Adult Conference (NYAC),



scheduled for **June 14-18 in Winter Park, Colo.**, stood at 160 as of early February. The site can accommodate 500. About 70 percent of those who have registered to date have never before attended a denominational young adult conference, according to Becky Ullom, NYAC coordinator. Registration remains open through April 15 at www.nyac2004.org.

The General Board reports a surprise financial **upturn in 2003**. The Church of the Brethren General Board's financial situation returned to stability in 2003 after unusually large losses the previous year, and after three years of investment losses. The welcome news was reported by Judy Keyser, the agency's chief financial officer and treasurer, in a year-end summary. For more information *Newsline* is available at www.brethren.org and is archived with an index at www.wfn.org. Also see Photo Journal at www.brethren.org/pjournal/index.htm for photo coverage of events.

Our Giving in Disaster Grants aid refugee ministry in Illinois and projects in Bosnia and American Samoa. Allocations from the Church of the Brethren General Board's Emergency Disaster Fund have been approved to support immigration and refugee services in Illinois, continued rebuilding following the war in Bosnia, and recovery from storm damage in the US Territory island of American Samoa. A grant of \$9,000 will go to Interfaith Refugee and Immigration Ministries of Illinois, serving the needs of refugees, asylum seekers, and immigrants in the Chicago area. The funds will be used for a Women's Empowerment Program that includes mentorship, English language training, and a sewing cooperative among its services.

An **allocation of \$8,000 responds to a Church World Service (CWS) appeal for aid to Bosnia**. Years after the war there, many people are still displaced from their homes and living in poverty. The funds will help build shelters for 55 families and assist with developing sustainable incomes.

In American Samoa, one of the Polynesian islands hit by Cyclone Heta in early January, **a grant of \$5,000 will help long-term recovery**. The slow-moving storm destroyed 600 homes with 1,000 others suffering major damage. Food crops were leveled and the island's infrastructure was damaged including electricity and water resources, telecommunications, hospitals, and schools.

Global Food Crisis Fund allocates \$24,000 for Rural Service Center in India. A grant of \$24,000 from the Church of the Brethren General Board's Global Food Crisis Fund has been approved to support the Rural Service Center in Ankleshwar, India.



Manchester, Goshen, and Earlham Colleges announce leadership, site for Peace House.

The presidents of Manchester College, North Manchester, Ind., and two other Indiana colleges have selected the management team for a new Plowshares Peace House--including a role for Indiana's former first lady, **Judy O'Bannon**. Manchester is a Church of the Brethren-related institution. O'Bannon, widow of Governor Frank O'Bannon, will serve as part-time director of external affairs for the residential peace studies program, which will be based in Indianapolis. "We welcome Judy O'Bannon to the Plowshares program," said Manchester president Parker G. Marden. "Her career as a public servant in support of concerns in Indiana for community, peace, and social justice is legendary and bipartisan. Our students will greatly benefit from her talents and experience." The Peace House is a major focus of Plowshares, a collaborative program with Earlham College, a school related to the Friends, and Goshen College, a Mennonite-related institution. Plowshares promotes peace and justice studies and related programs across the country, with emphasis on Indiana. It is funded by a \$13.8 million Lilly Endowment grant. Undergraduates from the three sponsoring institutions and other schools will be housed at Peace House. Erwin Boschmann, vice chancellor and professor of chemistry at Indiana University-