



# AMERICA WE THANK YOU

An Armenian Tribute to Near East Relief

# ALASKA FACT SHEET

Alaska was an integral supporter of Near East Relief (NER), the American-led campaign that quickly sparked an international response with its unprecedented humanitarian endeavor, mobilizing all segments of American citizenry including elected officials, celebrities and laypersons alike, to help rescue victims of the Armenian Genocide in Ottoman Turkey from 1915-1930.



- Alaska's NER committee in Juneau coordinated its relief efforts through NER's West Washington headquarters located at 339 Burke Building in Seattle, Washington.
- In 1920, Alaska helped NER by raising funds for food and shelter of 83 orphan babies of the Bible land year after year. The total raised for caring of these children was \$5,000 per year.
- The appeal for funds was headed by Reverend David Waggoner of Juneau.
- The following year, E. A. Potter of Spokane, Northwest Secretary of NER, voiced the desperate need for help of the 120,000 orphans in its facilities and 30,000 additional starving, half-naked orphans waiting outside the orphanage doors to get in.
- The *Pullman Herald* issued NER's appeal to Alaska in December 1921, asking all those in Alaska to once more "Mother these babies of the Bible lands who have, figuratively, been left on Alaska's doorsteps... please feed them, Alaska, lest they die."

## Alaska, We Thank You!

Thanks to the generosity of Near East Relief, its participating organizations and entities, the U.S. Government and State Governments, and especially the American people at large, over 1,000,000 refugees and 132,000 orphans of the Armenian Nation and other Christian minorities were rescued, fed, clothed, and educated. We have survived, thrived, and prospered from the horrors of Genocide at the hands of Ottoman Turkey.

For your unwavering support and unprecedented generosity in donating to NER's humanitarian efforts, Alaska, We Thank You!



An ANCA WR Initiative