



AMERICA WE THANK YOU

An Armenian Tribute to Near East Relief

SOUTH DAKOTA FACT SHEET

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



- South Dakota facilitated its NER efforts through its state office headquarters located at 419 Western National Bank Building in Mitchell.
- The citizens of South Dakota raised \$1,000 through the sale of Armenian embroidery and needlework (pictured, left) at the Huron, South Dakota State Fair in 1923. Additionally, through this booth thousands of people received information concerning NER's critical work.
- A campaign in Corsica, which covered six townships with a total population of 2,600 people, contributed 489 bushels of corn and \$1,118.35 in cash. Those who did not have money organized bake sales and donated the proceeds.
- South Dakota played an important role in the Near East Relief humanitarian effort, which included the Proclamation by Canton Mayor Wm. F. Tank, urging residents to observe "Golden Rule Sunday" (the Sunday after Thanksgiving) in support of Near East Relief efforts where participants were asked to their hearty Sunday dinner with a modest orphan meal, and donate the difference of what they would have spent to NER.

South Dakota, We Thank You!

Thanks to the generosity of the 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 Near East Relief's humanitarian efforts, South Dakota, We Thank You!



An ANCA WR Initiative