



**AMERICA
WE THANK YOU**
An Armenian Tribute to Near East Relief

**GEORGIA
FACT
SHEET**

Georgia 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.



- Georgia facilitated its NER efforts through its state office headquarters located in the Atlanta Trust Company Building.

- The only major daily newspaper in Atlanta, *The Constitution* published an article on June 8, 1922, among other days, stating that NER's designated clothing drives termed "Bundle Days" were days dedicated to humanity and consecrated in the spirit of God who said that "Inasmuch as ye did it unto one of the least of these, ye did it unto Me." The activities of Bundle Days, so far as they related to NER, were governed by the appropriate slogan, "The bigger the heart, the bigger will be the bundle."

- Atlanta declared a specific day of the year as its "Bundle Day", a day set apart for the collection of bundles of clothing and blankets contributed by the people of the city for the relief of those suffering in the Near East.

- *The Constitution* made a nationwide appeal to the American people and set forth the situation clearly and concisely, urging its citizens to "clean out their attics and closet corners to clothe the near-naked of the Near East, for the people are going in rags and nakedness while the looms of the Near East are still...If we have no second best to give them, then why not our best? We can duplicate our clothes here in this country with little effort, whereas a lifetime of effort in a country where there are no industries will not avail a man so much as an undershirt."





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- Several governmental, religious, social, and community leaders were in charge of the Atlanta unit of the nationwide NER organization, including local chairman, General Lucian York, and chairwoman of the Woman's Auxiliary, Mrs. Ulric L. Atkinson. Georgia-based publications commended the response on the part of the city administration and the various organizations of the city for their relief efforts.
- Specifically referencing Armenia's national symbol, Mount Ararat Atlanta's nationwide appeal continued, "By the time we can get the fruits of our attic spring cleaning to Mount Ararat, the winter snows will be there. And don't forget that a frayed over-coat, or that forgotten suit, may save a life."

Georgia, 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 Near East Relief's humanitarian efforts, Georgia, We Thank You!



An ANCA WR Initiative