



# AMERICA WE THANK YOU

An Armenian Tribute to Near East Relief

# IDAHO FACT SHEET

Idaho 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.



- Idaho facilitated its relief efforts from neighboring Washington's NER office located at the Peyton Building in Spokane and the Burke Building in Seattle.
- In May of 1921, Idaho's *Pullman Herald* published an appeal to its citizens to "cast off clothes and shoes for the nearly naked and half-starved refugees, men, women and children of Armenia and other impoverished war-torn countries of Asia minor."
- Idaho thus designated June 5th as its "Bundle Day," a day on which people were encouraged to donate gifts of blankets, shoes coats and other warm clothing, which were then collected and bundled and shipped to the refugees and orphans in the Near East.
- NER "Bundle Day" receiving stations were established in Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho at Spokane, Walla, Yakima, Coeur d'Alene, Lewiston, Wenatchee, Ellensburg, Moscow, Hilliard, Wallace, Colfax, Pullman, and Dayton.
- The residents of Idaho contributed an impressive 100 tons of clothing and shoes through the designated NER district office in neighboring Washington.
- Under the leadership of Dr. Sherman L. Divine, chairman of Northwestern USA for NER, the States of Washington, Idaho, Utah, Montana and Alaska sponsored the care and well-being of 6,750 orphan children and provided the cost of feeding and clothing these children at \$60 per child a year. Under this impressive mercy effort, West Washington provided for 2,500 orphans, East Washington and North Idaho for 1,250 orphans, South Idaho for 834 orphans, Utah for 1,250 orphans, Montana for 834 orphans and Alaska for 83 orphans, for a total of \$405,000 per year.



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## **Idaho, 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, Idaho, We Thank You!



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