



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

INDIANA
**FACT
SHEET**

Indiana was a staunch 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.



Indiana native, prominent member of the Mennonite Church, and a renowned figure with the Near East Relief, Nellie Miller Mann (pictured left with an Armenian orphan) sailed to Beirut in 1921 aboard the S.S. Patria, to assist Armenian refugees who had been deported outside of their ancestral homeland during the Armenian Genocide.

- Upon her arrival Mann described the forced deportations as such, “Armenians in thousands who were living in Turkey have been forced to move. They did not have time to sell their land, their goods, or to realize on any of the products of their work, but had to leave when the order was first issued. They could not even retain ownership of their homes, because it is a law in Turkey when a person once leaves Turkey the land and home becomes the property of the government.”
- Miller-Mann continued assisting the orphaned refugees until she retired from her tours of duty in 1923. Upon her return to the United States, Nellie Miller Mann was awarded the Near East Relief Service medal by the national field director of the Near East Foundation for her significant contributions to the Foundation and the relief effort.
- An Indiana resident is noted as providing a check for \$25 for the state’s NER efforts. The generous donor explained that she was a widow with limited resources but had been so touched by the appeals that she determined to do her own varnishing to contribute the money she would have spent in hiring for it to be done.
- A viewing of the NER motion picture “Alice in Hungerland” was organized by William Green, secretary-treasurer of the United Mine Workers of America. The motion picture was screened in Tomlinson Hall, seating capacity 3500.
- “Alice in Hungerland” was filmed in Armenia and helped to raise awareness among local residents about the plight and suffering of the Armenians, particularly the rescued orphan children who were in dire need of clothing, food and shelter.



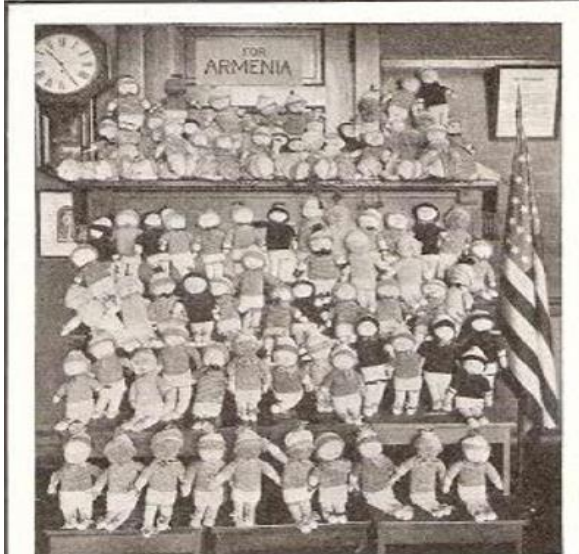
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Gifts for the children of Armenia from school children in Indianapolis, Indiana

- In December 1921, an Indiana manufacturer sent a ton and a half of candy to Armenia to be distributed among the Armenian orphans.
- In March 1922, school children from Indianapolis, Indiana, provided hundreds of dolls as gifts to the orphan Armenian children in the Near East. The beautiful photograph (left) of this touching gesture was published in the March 1922 issue of NER's official publication, *The New Near East*, which boasted a readership of over 100,000 persons every month.

- At the Indiana State Sunday School Convention in 1923, an automobile in a gigantic street pageant of Sunday school workers carried three Armenian women, victims of the deportation marches along with Armenian children who had been rescued by NER efforts.
- The children carried a banner that read, "We thank the American Sunday schools for aiding the orphans of Bible Lands."

Indiana, 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, Indiana, We Thank You!



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