

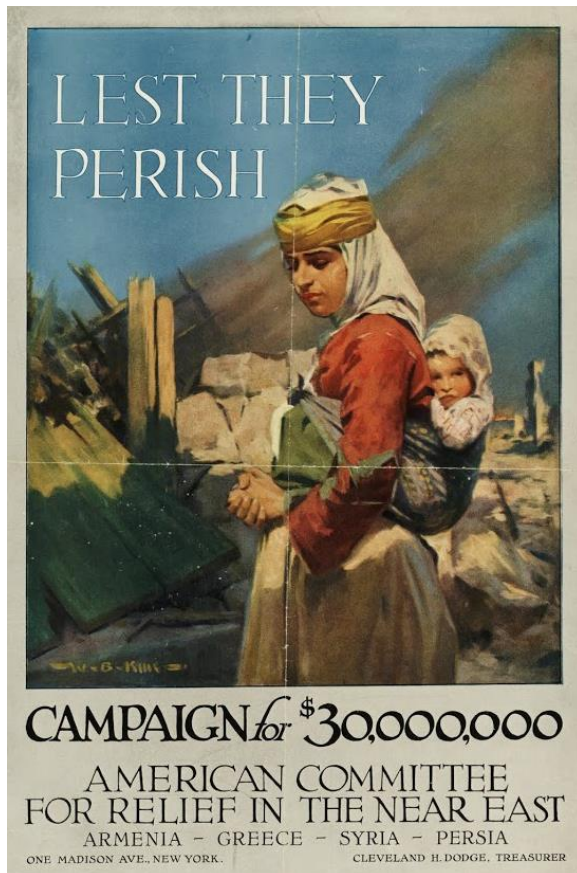


# AMERICA WE THANK YOU

An Armenian Tribute to Near East Relief

# IOWA FACT SHEET

Iowa 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.



- Iowa facilitated its NER efforts through its state office headquarters located at 521 Securities Building in Des Moines.

- Clay County, Iowa, native Miss Glee Hastings was a dedicated volunteer of the NER who worked with the orphans in Armenia. To honor her efforts and continue the important relief work, Clay County residents established the “Glee Hastings Orphanage Fund.”

- In February 1921, Miss Hastings reported the arrival of 2,000 blankets plus milk and bread for the appeal she coordinated noting her thanks, along with her concern that hers was only one of the hundreds of appeals for the starving Armenians.

- Miss Hastings’ testimony is as follows: “Most of the refugees are country people with almost nothing except the clothes on their backs, stupefied and dazed by their misfortunes. Bread is given only to women and children at the rate of one-half loaf for a person, each day.

The milk is reserved for the babies and the sick. The refugees sit around, huddled up against the walls--women with dull, sad faces, little children that are blue and pinched with the cold, and too miserable and lifeless to cry.”

- Under the direction of Dr. Kirby of Des Moines, Iowa in 1921, Iowa participated in the great Corn Campaign alongside Kansas, Nebraska and Illinois. The farmers collectively donated 413 car loads of corn and in addition contributed \$60,000 for the purchase of additional corn to be purchased at market price. Additionally, it was noted that donors can be shown that every bushel of the corn reached the mouths of those for whom it was intended. The handling and incidental expenses were absorbed by the NER making the Farm Bureau gift 100% efficient.



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- In October 1921, a fundraising campaign for the NER orphans was initiated by the Orange City High School in Iowa. The students raised over \$200 and were inspired to continue their efforts throughout the neighboring county schools and added \$600 to their contribution total.
- In February 1922, a series of NER motion picture screenings and lectures was organized for the residents of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Eye-witness accounts and first-hand observations from relief workers about the “Alice in Hungerland” movie, which tells the true story of an Armenian orphan adopted by a New York family who returns to Armenia and visits the orphanages to deliver donated food and clothing, was screened.
- The successes of the NER campaign in Sioux City, Iowa was in large part thanks to the local schoolchildren and their fundraising efforts.
- Educational literature and the screening of the motion picture “Seeing is Believing” inspired over 9,000 school children who watched the footage to participate in clothing and food drives.

### **Iowa, 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, Iowa, We Thank You!



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