



AMERICA WE THANK YOU

An Armenian Tribute to Near East Relief

KANSAS FACT SHEET

Kansas 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.



- Kansas' NER activities were facilitated through its NER state headquarters located at the Central National Bank Building in Topeka.

- Kansas participated in the Near East Relief's Christmas Appeal in 1921 and raised an incredible sum of \$23,725 in donations from generous supporters.

- Pictured above, Kansas Boy Scouts are greeted by Governor Jonathan Davis (22nd Governor of Kansas, 1923-1925) as they deliver clothing collected for NER's "Bundle Day," where donors gave bundles of blankets,

coats and clothing to help the near-naked refugees.

- Kansas participated in the great Corn Campaign initiated in 1921 alongside Iowa, Nebraska and Illinois.
- Kansas 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. These gifts saved the lives of thousands of hunger-stricken Armenian orphans.
- Council Grove, Kansas, reported that in 1921 successful coyote round-ups were conducted with the wolves being sold at auctions and proceeds were appropriated for NER efforts.



An ANCA WR Initiative



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

KANSAS
**FACT
SHEET**

- October 29, 1922 was declared Near East Day for the churches of Lawrence, Kansas. Pastors of the city told of the condition of Smyrna and the need for money to keep millions of starving people from being wiped out by poverty.
- The Near East Relief motion picture, “Alice in Hungerland” was screened at the Methodist Church in Lawrence, Kansas. “Alice in Hungerland” is a story about an Armenian orphan adopted by a New York family who returns to Armenia and visits the orphanages to deliver donated food and clothing. The movie was filmed in Armenia starring the Armenian orphan herself and helped 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.
- During the Children’s Crusade in 1924, Jackie Coogan, Hollywood’s first humanitarian, stopped in Kansas City to collect milk, clothing and non-perishable food to be included in the million-dollar cargo of the ship he was “piloting” for the orphaned children of the Near East. Every school child in the United States was encouraged to participate in collecting donations and almost everyone who came to greet Jackie brought with them gifts—cans and cases of milk, boxes and packages of food and money. Jackie’s tour received unprecedented media coverage in the U.S. through newspapers, movie magazines, and newsreels.
- These examples are just a snapshot of the outpouring of generosity displayed by the citizens of Kansas to the Near East Relief’s invaluable campaign in rescuing the survivors of the Armenian Genocide.

Kansas, 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, Kansas, We Thank You!



An ANCA WR Initiative