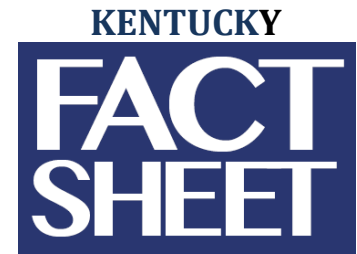




**AMERICA
WE THANK YOU**
An Armenian Tribute to Near East Relief



Kentucky 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.



- Kentucky's NER activities were facilitated through its NER state headquarters located at 940 Fourth Street in Louisville.
 - In December of 1920 alone, the residents of Kentucky raised an impressive \$15,341.50 in response to NER's Christmas Giving Appeal.
 - Kentucky native, Miss Constance Sheltman, (pictured on the left) daughter of Wade Sheltman, president of Franklin Printing Company of Louisville, left her job as a school bookkeeper and joined the NER efforts in 1920.
- Miss Sheltman became the director of the industrial department for NER in Constantinople. There she helped Armenian women preserve traditional embroidery and weaving techniques, and created a weaving department in Ismir that employed thousands of refugee women.
 - During the Children's Crusade in 1924, Jackie Coogan, Hollywood's first humanitarian, stopped in Louisville, Kentucky, 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, movies, magazines, and newsreels.

Kentucky, 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, Kentucky, We Thank You!



An **ANCA WR** Initiative

www.AmericaWeThankYou.org | 104 N. Belmont | Suite 200 | Glendale | CA 91206 | 818.500.1918 | info@AmericaWeThankYou.org