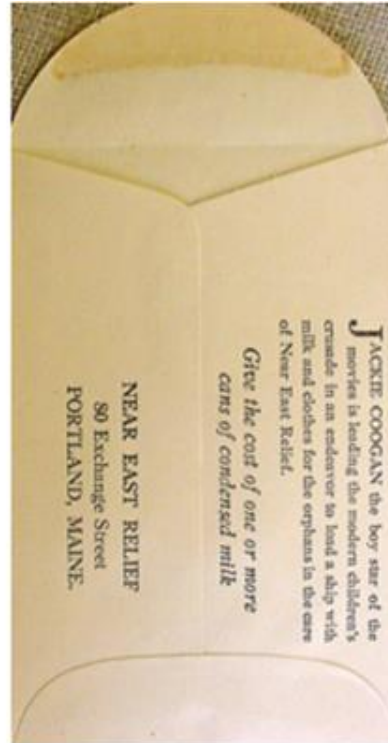




**AMERICA
WE THANK YOU**
An Armenian Tribute to Near East Relief

**MAINE
FACT
SHEET**

Maine 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.



- Maine facilitated its NER efforts through its state office headquarters located at 80 Exchange Street, Room 23 in Portland, Maine.

- The December 1920 Christmas Giving Campaign spearheaded throughout the United States raised over \$1,000,000. Maine donated generously to this campaign, and was lauded for a \$30,000 donation made by a single donor.

- *The New Near East*, the official publication of the NER, which boasted a monthly readership of over 100,000 persons, had this to

say in response to the unprecedented \$30,000 donation. “If a single individual in Maine can sense need in the Near East to the tune of a check for \$30,000, what are we led to hope, even expect, from every State in the Union?”

- In 1924, Hollywood’s first humanitarian, child actor Jackie Coogan partnered with NER spearheading the Children’s Crusade 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.

- Pictured above are the envelopes dispersed throughout Maine to collect funds for the Children’s Crusade for the orphans overseas.



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- In order to raise awareness about the plight and suffering of the Armenians and in order to garner support and raise funds to meet its humanitarian campaign, NER filmed and produced motion pictures which were screened across America.
- NER's motion picture "America's Glory in the Near East" was screened throughout summer hotels in Maine. As a result of one of these screenings at Bar Harbor, the four children of Bishop Lawrence of the Episcopal Church contributed their summer savings to the NER efforts, which consisted of a five dollar gold piece and forty-eight cents.

Maine, 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, Maine, We Thank You!



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