



# AMERICA WE THANK YOU

An Armenian Tribute to Near East Relief

# MARYLAND FACT SHEET

Maryland 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.



*Baltimore Ford Dealers' Christmas  
Gift to Armenia*

- Maryland conducted its NER efforts through its state headquarters located at 14 W. Franklin Street in Baltimore.

- During the Children's Crusade in 1924, Jackie Coogan, Hollywood's first humanitarian, stopped in Baltimore 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.

- Maryland state director of Near East Relief, H. F. Pellegrin, raised \$970.90 from one meeting with a group of farmers in 1920-1921. The little community where the farmers lived was fifty miles from any railroad and thirty-seven miles from any town. When the director of Near East Relief met with the group and told them about the thousands and thousands of homeless people in Near East they gave him \$1.25. After the director told the farmers about the good that their money could do the farmers kept adding to their contribution until the total raised from that one community in that meeting was \$970.90.

## **Maryland, 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, Maryland, We Thank You!



An ANCA WR Initiative