



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

MICHIGAN
**FACT
SHEET**

Michigan 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.



- Michigan facilitated its relief efforts from its NER state headquarters located at 1106 Stroh Building in Detroit.

- Mrs. E.L. Calkins of Michigan, a member of the State Committee, and the President of The Woman's Christian Temperance Union, assisted NER's collection drives for foodstuffs, most especially through collecting bags of flour, which was essential for preparing meals throughout the over 400 NER orphanages, hospitals, medical clinics and schools.

- Mrs. Calkins struck an emotional chord with the women of Michigan by stressing the importance of a bag of flour in a home. Utilizing the slogan, "Say it With Flour," Mrs. Calkins inspired women throughout the state to donate flour for the starving Armenians in the Near East.

- When addressing her fellow women, Mrs. Calkins did not say "Armenia needs money. Will

you give?" Instead, she led as follows: "In every barrel of flour there are four bags full. How many bags of flour are you women of America, mothers, going to send to the women of Armenia, mothers too, like yourselves?"

- In 1923, NER's "Bundle Day" was launched in Detroit, where blankets, warm clothing and shoes were donated, bundled in bulk and shipped overseas. The donations from this effort amounted to more than an impressive one hundred tons of clothing.

- The "Bundle Day" effort was aided by Miss Lulu McKibbin of the National Office, who went to Detroit to manage the publicity. Arrangements were made for twelve Army airplanes from the Mount Clement Flying Field to drop leaflets throughout the city the day before Bundle Day with 20,000 tags announcing the event, ensuring avid participation.



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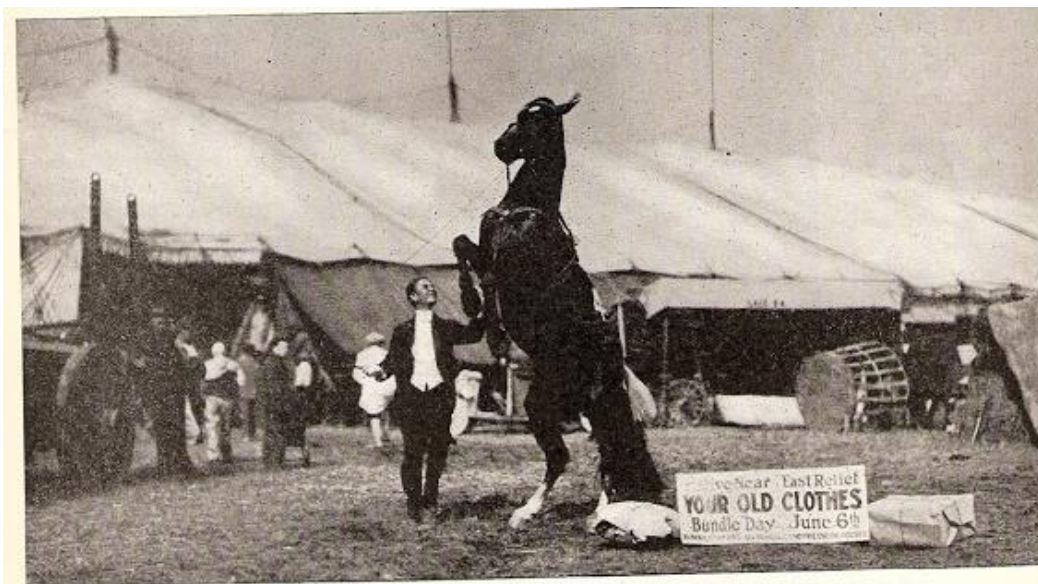


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- The success of the campaign was due in large part to the massive outreach to local citizens. From the proclamation issued by the Mayor of Detroit and the vast selection of bundle stations which included all schools and fire and police stations, to the means of advertising with posters on all laundry, ice, milk, bakery and ice cream wagons and in street cars, to the daily stories, cartoons and space donated by merchants in the newspaper, the call to participate in "Bundle Day" was virtually everywhere.
- On the evening "Bundle Day" was launched, Miss McKibbin broadcasted the appeal from the *Free Press* Radio Station. A circus that was in town not only carried Near East Relief banners across the entrances of the tent and the ticket booth, but allowed its performers to donate their clothing. Even the trick horse (pictured below) donated his extra blanket. This story was published in the September 1923 issue of NER's official publication the *New Near East*, which boasted a monthly readership of 100,000 persons a month.



The circus horse in Detroit, Michigan, who donated his extra blankets to Near East Relief.

- The Grand Lodge of Masons in Michigan donated \$5,000 to the NER relief efforts.

Michigan, 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, Michigan, We Thank You!



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