

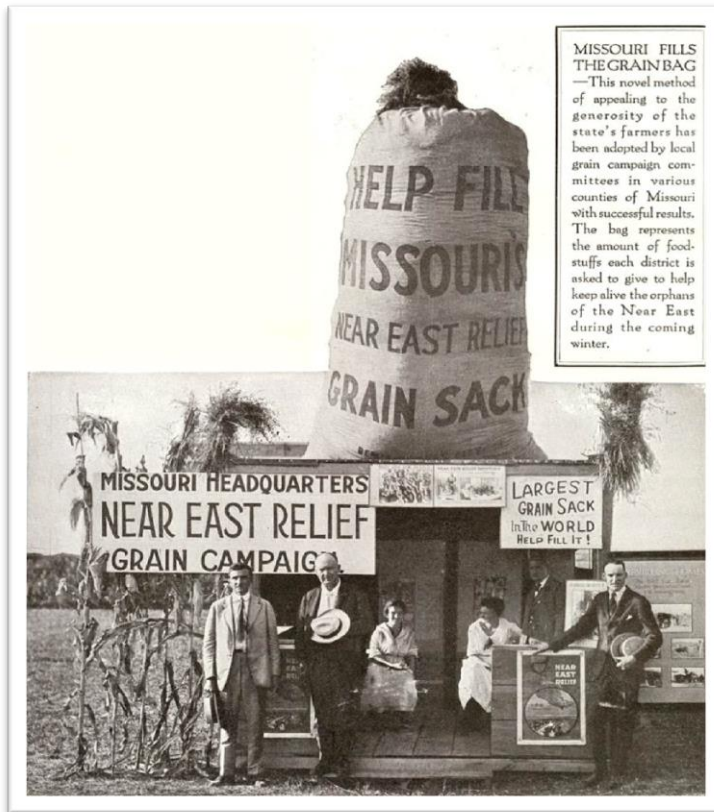


AMERICA WE THANK YOU

An Armenian Tribute to Near East Relief

MISSOURI FACT SHEET

Missouri 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.



- Missouri facilitated its NER efforts through its two state offices. The Eastern Region's office was located at the Chemical Building in St. Louis, while the Western Region's office was located at 701 Scarritt Building in Kansas City.

- In December 1920 alone, Missouri contributed \$10,425.76 to NER through its Christmas Giving Campaign.

- The boys of the Reformatory in Boonville, Cooper County, Missouri (Missouri Training School for Boys) collected \$43.92 from their own earnings and sent it to NER to buy food for the hungry children in Armenia. The Superintendent and officers of the institution were so touched by this act that they matched the boys' gift and added another \$62 of their own money to be sent to NER.

- Arthur M. Hyde, Governor of Missouri, joined U.S. President Calvin Coolidge and issued a proclamation, appointing December 7, 1924, as Golden Rule Sunday, which was observed throughout the world under the leadership of Americans. Participants were encouraged to substitute their otherwise plentiful Sunday dinner with a modest orphan meal and donate the difference directly to NER's efforts to sustain and rehabilitate the orphans.

- On January 24, 1919, *The Missouri Monroe Democrat* published an appeal by NER asking American mothers to save the life of at least one Armenian, Syrian or Jewish baby in the Bible lands by donating 17cents a day for a total of \$5 per month. The appeal stated that for hundreds of years Turks have fed these unfortunate people on cruelty and oppression and crushed them by evil misrule.



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- Livingston County in Missouri was asked to donate 3 carloads of corn to NER. This quota was distributed among school districts, and teachers were asked to oversee the collection of the quota in their district. Teachers were told to ask each of their students to talk to their parents and see how much corn they can donate. The collected corn was taken to Scruby Elevator, in Chillicothe by local Boy Scouts. The appeal for relief stated: "Not of us shall it be said that we permitted a little child to die by the roadside."
- Children were the most generous and genuine givers to NER, donating their allowances. They worked enthusiastically and their efforts begot efforts. St. Louis school children gave \$10,000 to NER. The Webster Groves High School in St. Louis County raised \$612.05.
- Cleveland High School in St. Louis raised \$1,300.00 in one night for NER. This was accomplished by what they called "A Circus" held in gymnasium. For "stunts" the Botany Club had a flower booth; the Science Department had a "side show" specializing in electric shocks, optical illusions, etc.; the PTA had a cake booth and the band provided the music.
- William H. Danforth, President of Purina Mills, St. Louis, was so impressed by the work NER did to train the (orphan) children in Near East for self-support that he took the responsibility of maintaining one such industrial center in Beirut.
- Dr. R. T Uhls of Kansas City, Missouri, gave the gift of sight to over 3,000 Armenian orphans who were cured from the complications of trachoma in the city of Alexandropol, Armenia, otherwise known as "Orphan City" because of the staggering number of orphans housed there. After two years of treatment these children were cured. Trachoma had caused numerous cases of blindness at that time. Practically, all 30,000 children in the Alexandropol orphanage, cared for by NER, suffered various stages of trachoma and local doctors were struggling to cope with the disease without much success. Not only did Dr. Uhls oversee the administration of ninety-two thousand treatments in one week, but also directed relief workers to carry an extensive educational campaign to prevent the further spread of the disease.

Missouri, 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, Missouri, We Thank You!



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