



# AMERICA WE THANK YOU

An Armenian Tribute to Near East Relief

# MONTANA FACT SHEET

Montana was an integral supporter of Near East Relief (NER), the American-led campaign that quickly sparked an international response with its unprecedented humanitarian endeavor, and which mobilized all segments of the American citizenry including elected officials, celebrities and laypersons alike to help rescue victims of the Armenian Genocide in Ottoman Turkey from 1915-1930.



- Montana facilitated its relief efforts from its state headquarters at 5 Montana Building in Helena.
- Montana native F. W. Whitaker who hailed from Hinsdale, was among the many Americans who traveled overseas to visit the NER orphanages and hospitals. He shared his experiences with the community upon his return on December 24, 1920 to raise awareness about the perils and suffering of the Armenian people.
- The citizens of Montana were instrumental in responding to the appeals by NER for foodstuffs and donated substantial amounts of wheat in addition to cash donations and donations of warm clothing during NER's "Bundle Day" drives where bundles of blankets, shoes and clothing were packaged and shipped overseas in advance of the harsh winters.
- Under the leadership of Dr. Sherman L. Divine, chairman of Northwestern USA for NER, the Northwestern USA acted as foster parents to 6,750 mainly Armenian orphan children of the Near East, by providing the cost of feeding and clothing these children at \$60 per child a year, for a total of \$405,000.00.
- Under this impressive mercy effort West Washington provided for 2,500 orphans, East Washington and North Idaho for 1,250 orphans, South Idaho for 834 orphans, Utah for 1,250 orphans, Montana for 834 orphans and Alaska for 83 orphans.

## Montana, 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, Montana, We Thank You!



An ANCA WR Initiative