



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

**NEBRASKA
FACT
SHEET**

Nebraska 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.



- Nebraska facilitated its NER efforts through its state office headquarters located at 401 Mickel Building in Omaha.
- In order to raise awareness about the plight of the millions of starving refugees and the hundreds of thousands of orphans, Lincoln, Nebraska's Sunday State Journal showed the movie "Alice in Hungerland" in front of the Journal's building on Tuesday November 7, 1922, as a feature of the Journal's election party.

• "Alice in Hungerland" was filmed in Armenia and is the true story about an Armenian orphan adopted by a New York family who returns to Armenia and visits the orphanages to deliver the food and clothing that had been generously donated by Americans.

• The Sunday State Journal of Lincoln, Nebraska, reported in its November 5, 1922, publication that there would be a fundraising campaign for NER from November 8-10 and that Lincoln's goal was to raise \$25,000. Mr. H.K. Burket chaired the campaign and Mrs. E. L. Hinman was acting secretary.



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- A great Corn Campaign was inaugurated in the Midwest in 1921. Dr. Kirbye of Des Moines, Iowa was asked to direct this undertaking in the big corn states of Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas and Illinois. The Campaign yielded an impressive 413 car loads of corn with an additional contribution of \$60,000 for the purchase of additional corn to be purchased at market price. Moreover, it was noted that donors can be shown that every bushel of the corn reached the mouths of those for whom it was intended. The handling and incidental expenses were absorbed by the NER making the Farm Bureau gift 100% efficient.
- The *Dakota County Herald* (published in Dakota City, Nebraska), published an article in its January 1, 1920 issue, with the title “An American \$2 Bill Did This” wherein it was explained how an American man or woman’s \$2 contribution helped Near East Relief to take in a motherless, fatherless, homeless, nameless three year old Armenian orphan and feed and take care of the child. The article appealed to the public stating that there were more than quarter million other little victims of Turkish cruelty and oppression knocking on the doors of Near East Relief orphanages and many more American \$2 bills were needed to take them in.
- The *Dakota County Herald* also ran a subsequent article explaining the real life story of a an Armenian orphan boy depicted in a Near East Relief poster, with the caption “Give the boy a chance; 249,999 other homeless orphans like him.” The article explained that the forlorn little fellow, with hunger-stricken cheeks, hopeless mouth and frail, starving body was taken to an NER orphanage where the relief workers realized that his only earthly possession was a patched blanket of burlap bag that he was wearing. The little boy was photographed by Dr. Milton S. Littlefield of the Near East Relief.
- The *Sunday State Journal* published in Lincoln, Nebraska, ran an article announcing that Pope Pius XI had officially blessed the work of NER, and had appropriated 550,000 Lire for the relief of Smyrna victims.

Nebraska, 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, Nebraska, We Thank You!



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