



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

NORTH CAROLINA
**FACT
SHEET**

North Carolina 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.



- North Carolina facilitated its NER efforts through its state office headquarters located at 307 Robinson Building on Tyson Street in Charlotte.
- On February 7, 1921, both the North Carolina Senate and the House of Representatives adopted a resolution endorsing the work of Near East Relief and expressed confidence in its work and mission to be carried forth by its citizens.
- The March 1923 issue of North Carolina's Education Journal publicized the designation of the month of April as "Clothing Month for Near East Relief" throughout North Carolina's schools and confirmed prizes for the schools whose pupils donate the most clothing.
- Dr. E. C. Brooks, State Superintendent of Public Instruction served as the State Chairman of NER's clothing campaign in effort to save 30,000 refugees and children who run the risk of freezing to death in the coming winter as burlaps bags and thin flour sacks are used as protection against the severe cold.
- In addition to the \$200,000 North Carolina set to fundraise in 1923 to keep alive the 3,334 Armenian orphans it had been fostering, the generous citizens of North Carolina took upon themselves to collect 150,000 pounds of clothing for the Armenian refugees and orphans.
- "Near East Relief...in addition to feeding, sheltering, and educating 110,000 little children in the far-off Bible lands—remnants of the Armenian Nation—also clothes about a million children and adults from cast-off American clothing," reported the Education Journal.



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- The April 1922 issue of *Southern Medicine and Journal of North Carolina* reported on the miraculous work performed by Dr. R. T Uhls who had been practicing medicine in North Carolina and who relocated to Alexandropol (present-day Gyumri, Armenia) to treat the over 3,000 Armenian orphaned children stricken with trachoma, in the largest network of NER orphanages, termed “Orphan City,” due to its nearly 30,000 orphans seeking refuge there.
- After two years of treatment facilitated by Dr. Uhls, these children were cured. Trachoma had caused numerous cases of blindness at that time. Practically, all the 30,000 children in the Alexandropol orphanages, 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 92,000 treatments in one week, ensuring the gift of sight, but also directed relief workers to carry an extensive educational campaign to prevent the further spread of the disease.
- As part of its campaign to raise awareness about the plight and suffering of the Armenians and the need for humanitarian assistance, NER produced motion pictures to tell its story. At the Oasis theatre a special two reel showing of “Alice in Hungerland,” filmed in Armenia, provided eye-witness accounts and first-hand observations from relief workers in the orphanages, and tells the true story of an Armenian orphan girl who was adopted by a New York family and returned to Armenia to visit the orphanages and delivered the food and clothing that had been donated by generous American citizens.

North Carolina, We Thank You!

Thanks to the generosity of the Near East Relief, its participating organizations and entities, 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, North Carolina, We Thank You!



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