



AMERICA WE THANK YOU

An Armenian Tribute to Near East Relief

NORTH DAKOTA FACT SHEET

North Dakota was a staunch of Near East Relief, 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 Dakota's NER activities were facilitated through its NER state headquarters located 120 Broadway in Fargo.
- *The Weekly Times Record* published in Valley City, North Dakota in September 1920 reported that 10,000 little victims of Turkish brutality were being foster-mothered by big-hearted women in Connecticut as a result of NER appeals. North Dakota promised to continue the efforts through its sponsorship of 1,500 orphans on "Relief Day" on October 4, 1920.
- Statements issued by North Dakota's NER State Personnel in *The Bismarck Tribune* on September 23, 1921, and *The Weekly Times Record*, Valley City, North Dakota on October 6, 1921, reported that farmers, through the North Dakota's Grain Campaign were donating 84 cars of wheat in response to NER's urgent appeals for foodstuffs.
- The State Committee for North Dakota's grain campaign was headed by Mr. Fuller of North Dakota's Farm Bureau Federation, which issued the following statement: "There are 150,000 orphan children in orphanages in Near East. The problem is what to do with them. It seems unthinkable to let them starve. There is no one to feed them but America. With full appreciation of the straits of our own time and especially in our own state the committee is nevertheless sure that no person able to contribute a portion of the grain will find it in his heart to refuse. It is the living bread to hungry children who otherwise will perish."
- Given a recent report that had reached the Farm Bureau that 700 Near East Relief orphans had died of starvation, an appeal was made in *The Ward County Independent* in October 1921 asking farmers in North Dakota to donate two to three bushels of wheat each.



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- *The Weekly Times Record* published in Valley City, North Dakota, in December 1919 ran an article with the title “An American \$2 Bill Did This” wherein it explained how an American’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 a 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 Bismarck Daily Tribune* and *The Weekly Times Record of Valley City* reported in their December 1919 issue about prominent men such as former President William Howard Taft, former U.S. Ambassador to Constantinople Henry Morgenthau, and New York banker Alexander J. Hemphill, all executives of Near East Relief (the former American Committee on Armenian and Syrian Relief) who had issued a Christmas appeal for continued support of this organization and its work. The emotional appeal asked help to save the lives of more than 800,000 people in Armenia and Western Asian countries and to care for over 250,000 orphans.

North Dakota, 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, North Dakota, We Thank You!



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