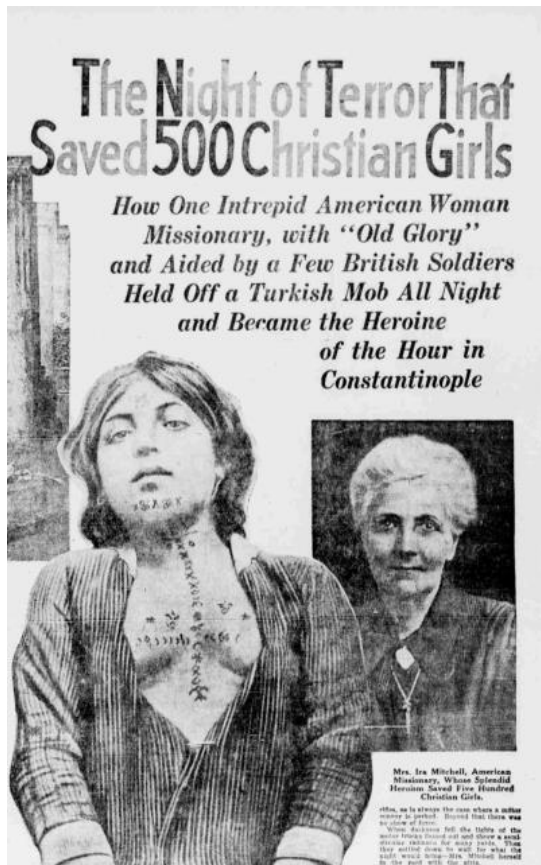




Oklahoma was an integral supporter of Near East Relief (NER), the American-led campaign that quickly sparked an international response with its unprecedented humanitarian endeavor, mobilizing all segments of American citizenry including elected officials, celebrities and laypersons alike, to help rescue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



- Oklahoma facilitated its relief efforts from its NER headquarters at 409 Grain Exchange Building in Oklahoma City.

- The Oklahoma NER Committee helped raise an impressive \$300,000 to do its part to help save the impoverished refugees and orphans.

- In December 1920 alone, \$11,800.04 was raised by Oklahoma's residents in response NER's Christmas Mail Giving Campaign.

- In 1920, Oklahoma's *The Beaver Herald* published the experiences of Ms. Gertrude S. Pearson, an American fieldworker with the NER.

- Ms. Pearson worked with NER from 1919-1920 and her account included the descriptions of relief efforts to save 110,000 orphans.

- In Ardmore, Oklahoma, churches sponsored the care of many Near East orphans. Mr. Selvidge chaired the work done in Ardmore where the Baptist Church, the Methodist Church as well as many other church organizations and some individuals committed to funding the \$60 pledge which met the shelter, clothing, sustenance and medical needs of an orphan for a whole year.

- On October 29, 1922 *The Morning Tulsa Daily World* published the story of Mrs. Ira Mitchell, a brave American Missionary, whose heroism saved the lives 500 Armenian girls from slavery in Turkish harems. Pictured above, is the clipping from the Oklahoma-based newspaper.





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



- *The Oklahoma Miner* published an article about an Armenian family touring the US under the auspices of NER to raise awareness on the conditions in Armenia and Caucasus and help with the fundraising effort. Gen. Mesrop N. Azgapedian, his wife Lady Ann and their daughter, little Araxi (who was born in a tattered Red Cross tent in icy Caucasus while Turkish shells, ignoring the mercy emblem, burst near it) visited the U.S. in 1920 to talk about the conditions in Armenia and the needs of the 250,000 orphans, based on their first hand evidence.

## **Oklahoma, 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, Oklahoma, We Thank You!



An ANCA WR Initiative

[www.AmericaWeThankYou.org](http://www.AmericaWeThankYou.org) | 104 N. Belmont | Suite 200 | Glendale | CA 91206 | 818.500.1918 | [info@AmericaWeThankYou.org](mailto:info@AmericaWeThankYou.org)