

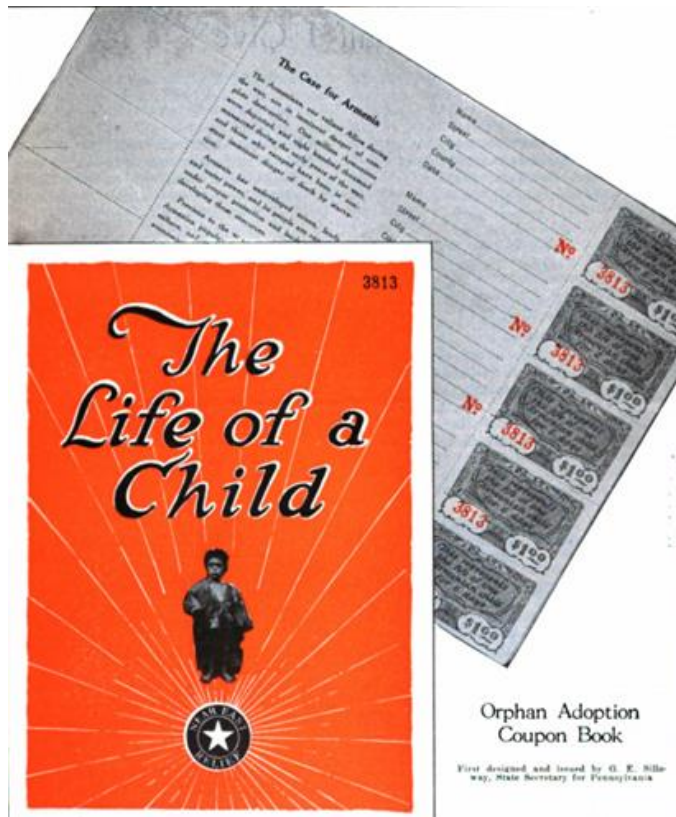


# AMERICA WE THANK YOU

An Armenian Tribute to Near East Relief

# PENNSYLVANIA FACT SHEET

Pennsylvania was a staunch 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.



- Pennsylvania's NER activities were facilitated through its NER state headquarters located at N. E. Cor. Broad & Locust Streets in Philadelphia. An additional local office for Pittsburgh's efforts was designated in the city's Renshaw Building.

- 29,176 Armenian orphans were rescued and rehabilitated through the generous sponsorship of Pennsylvania's citizens. The state's churches, Sunday schools, women's leagues, fraternal organizations as well as pupils of its public and private schools all contributed to this magnanimous effort of supporting Armenian children orphaned as a result of the Armenian Genocide.

- George E. Silloway, Pennsylvania's Secretary of NER, designed and issued an Orphan Adoption Coupon Book (pictured on left - source: March 1921 issue of *New Near East*, the official publication of the Near East Relief), which was sold throughout the state

to raise the funds for the support of the Armenian orphans.

- By March 1921 Pennsylvania had raised over \$630,000 in cash, while its credits for the clothing it had donated throughout the state exceeded one million dollars. Secretary Silloway not only collected and delivered forty cartloads of clothing valued at \$416,000 for Armenia, but he also led the effort to raise \$358,000 from July 1920-March 1921.
- Gifford Pinchot, Governor of Pennsylvania, joined President Calvin Coolidge and issued a proclamation, observing December 6, 1924 as Golden Rule Sunday, a Near East Relief initiative whereby observers substituted their hearty Sunday dinner with a modest orphan meal and donated the difference to NER's efforts. Governor Pinchot himself supported three NER orphans, one each on behalf of himself, his wife, and his little son Gifford Jr.



An ANCA WR Initiative



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

PENNSYLVANIA  
**FACT  
SHEET**

- 1,000 tons of corn products, 5,000 army cots, 5,000 cases of corn syrup, several hundred tons of clothing, a ton of Wilbur's chocolate and another ton of Hershey's cocoa were contributed by Pennsylvania to the Christmas 1921 cargo sent to the orphan children.
- The city of Hershey, with population of 1,000, contributed 53,000 pounds of Hershey's cocoa valued at \$3,000 which translates into \$3 per each man, woman and child living in the village of Hershey. The Hershey Chocolate Company donated 9,000 pounds of cocoa for the children in the NER orphanages.
- Members of Phi Kappa Psi fraternity of Dickinson College in Carlisle donated \$75 to NER which they raised by opting to ride street cars instead of taking cabs to their annual holiday celebration, donating the difference of what they saved directly to NER.
- Pennsylvania residents were instrumental not only through their generous donations to NER, but were also among the over 1,000 American NER volunteers and workers who traveled across land and sea to provide firsthand assistance to the refugees and orphans. Miss Mary Elizabeth Sill of Pittsburgh traveled to Beirut where she served as an NER orphanage director in Ghazir, home to over 1,400 Armenian orphan girls, who were taught the art of rug weaving. The Armenian Orphan Girls of Ghazir Orphanage painstakingly weaved a rug of over 4 million knots measuring over 18x11 feet and sent it as a gift to President Calvin Coolidge in 1925 amidst national media coverage "In Golden Rule Gratitude."
- Mr. Clark D. Martin, a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, served as a fieldworker with the NER and left his home in Pine Grove and traveled to Armenia where he worked from 1920-1922. In an effort to ensure that the Armenian orphans had a means of becoming self-sustainable working members of society when they became of age to leave the orphanages, Mr. Martin returned to the U.S. to survey the operations of factories and workshops and returned to Armenia with his newfound knowledge to supervise such industries in the city of Alexandropol, current-day Gyumri in Armenia.

## **Pennsylvania, 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, Pennsylvania, We Thank You!



An ANCA WR Initiative