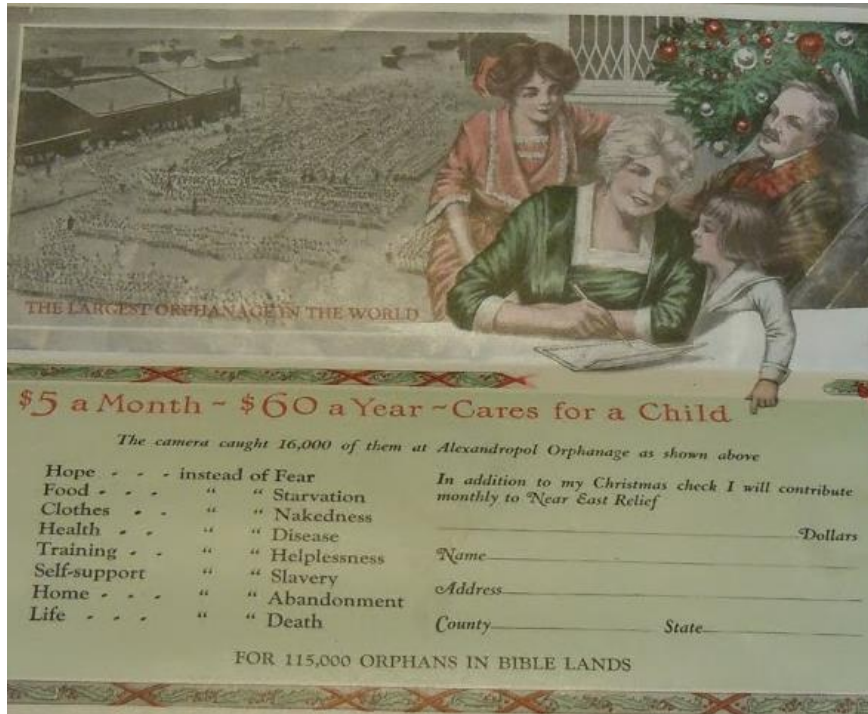




**AMERICA
WE THANK YOU**
An Armenian Tribute to Near East Relief

**SOUTH CAROLINA
FACT
SHEET**

South Carolina was a staunch supporter 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.



- South Carolina facilitated its NER efforts from its state office headquarters located at 1325 Maine Street in Columbia.

- Governor Thomas G. McLeod issued a Proclamation and declared Tuesday May 1, 1923 "Bundle Day." Bundle days were organized by NER throughout the country as a means for blankets, warm clothing and shoes to be donated, bundled in bulk and shipped overseas.

- Governor McLeod requested that the people of South Carolina gather all their extra winter clothing and turn it over to the NER's state headquarters in South Carolina for shipment to the suffering refugees and orphans who would otherwise freeze to death the following winter. The collection goal for clothing was set at 100,000 pounds.

- Near East Relief in Columbia, South Carolina, published a letter under the title "Rescue The Perishing" in the *Laurens Advertiser* in December 1920 as part of a Christmas campaign appealing for the public to help the "children of sorrow" by contributing \$5 a month to feed, \$10 a month to feed and clothe, or \$15 a month to feed, clothe and educate a child at Near East Relief orphanages. The letter stated that Near East Relief had over 100,000 children in their care and thousands more are waiting. "Only America can save them, only you are their hope. Would you fail them?"



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- The generous residents of South Carolina donated \$18,000 in response to that Christmas Giving Appeal.
- Governor McLeod also issued also a Proclamation observing “Golden Rule Sunday,” NER’s initiative whereby people were encouraged to substitute their hearty Sunday dinner with a modest orphan meal and then donate the difference to NER’s efforts.

South Carolina, 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, South Carolina, We Thank You!



An ANCA WR Initiative

www.AmericaWeThankYou.org | 104 N. Belmont | Suite 200 | Glendale | CA 91206 | 818.500.1918 | info@AmericaWeThankYou.org