



# AMERICA WE THANK YOU

An Armenian Tribute to Near East Relief

TEXAS

# FACT SHEET

Texas 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.



- Texas' NER activities were facilitated through its NER state headquarters located at 611 Slaughter Building in Dallas.
- Among NER's personnel were Texas citizens who helped with the relief effort on the ground in the Near East. One such citizen was Earl H. Seeley of San Angelo, Texas who was in the Near East until December 1920.
- By April 1920 South Texas had raised \$270,000 for relief efforts which exceeded its quota of \$200,000. From this amount \$135.57 was raised by students and teachers of Ball High School.
- The "calls for aid of starving Armenia and adjacent countries" was also answered by residents of Comanche County.
- As part of the Christmas Appeal made by NER in 1920, residents of Texas raised over \$15,000 in the month of December alone.
- In the following twelve months approximately \$80,000 was raised by an impressive 96 counties in Texas. Mr. Charles L. Sanger, Chairman of NER for Texas, described the situation in Armenia as follows: "Road from Central Armenia to the Black Sea jammed with Armenian women and children fleeing before the Turkish army, unfed, shoeless, half naked. An urgent appeal is made to the NER committee to rush food, clothing and medicine."
- In December 1921 the city of Goliad donated a carload of corn, which was added to the donations amassed in Houston and shipped to Armenia.
- The Rotary Club of Bryan, Texas, was one of the many organizations that took an interest in the relief work in Armenia and Near East.



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- In February 1922 The Royal Theater of Waco premiered the NER motion picture “Alice in Hungerland,” which was filmed in Armenia for screening overseas to help raise awareness about the plight and suffering of the Armenians, particularly the rescued orphan children who were in dire need of clothing, food and shelter. Proceeds from movie ticket sales benefited NER operations.
- Additionally, schools and churches, including the First Baptist Church, donated the funds from their evening services when the movie was shown, adding to the donations being raised.
- “Alice in Hungerland” was also screened in El Paso, Texas. Movie-goers learned firsthand about the actual conditions Armenian refugees and orphans faced through the footage of refugee camps and the faces of the orphan children, as well as the critical work carried out by the NER, to which they in turn donated food, clothing and funds.
- Waco, Texas purchased 2000 barrels of flour for NER, through its successful fundraising.
- NER Chairman of Milam County, O.L. Kidd designated Sunday March 2, 1924, as a day of fundraising and asked all county residents to contribute as swiftly and generously as possible. The emergency appeal was in response to the harsh winter in the Near East because of which food supply for the orphanages was depleting to the point of extreme danger.

### **Texas, 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, Texas, We Thank You!



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