



# AMERICA WE THANK YOU

An Armenian Tribute to Near East Relief

UTAH

# FACT SHEET

Utah 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.



- Utah's NER activities were facilitated through its NER state headquarters located at 120 E. First South Street in Salt Lake City.
  - As part of its public awareness campaign, the NER coordinated community meetings where those who had been part of the rescue missions overseas shared their experiences and all they witnessed to local audiences.
  - Dr. E. T. Allen addressed residents both in Ogden and Salt Lake City relaying to them his personal experiences in rescuing and caring for Armenian women and children victimized by the Armenian Genocide.
  - In 1920, Heber J. Grant, President of the Church of the Latter Day Saints, made an unprecedented \$34,500 pledge on behalf of the Church to relieve the plight of the Armenians after listening to an inspiring address at the Tabernacle in Salt Lake City by Rev. Dr. Loyal Lincoln Wirt, a Congregational minister and well-known visionary of his time who advocated on behalf of the good works of NER.
- In 1921, the Sperry Flour Committee of Ogden, Utah, contributed \$5,000 worth of flour to NER, toward the total \$8,000 worth of flour raised that year. The Committee also organized a successful "Bundle Day" campaign wherein gently worn warm clothing was donated to the orphans overseas who faced harsh cold winters.
  - In 1922 alone, Utah sought to raise \$60,000 for NER's efforts and on April 27, 1922 Utah's NER state committee announced that it had set Mother's Day as the day to kick-off its week-long intensive fundraising campaign, which the state's civic, business and fraternal organizations would spearhead.



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- Utah joined forces with the Northwest United States “in a concerted effort to banish from Armenia...the spectres of disease and starvation that are grasping for the lives of unknown thousands of destitute women and more than 300,000 helpless orphans,” reported the *The Leavenworth Echo* on January 6, 1922.
- The article noted that Utah along with the Northwest states sought to sponsor the well-being of 6,750 orphans, who were described as “the children of America’s Armenian allies in the World War.”

## Utah, 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, Utah, We Thank You!



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