



# AMERICA WE THANK YOU

An Armenian Tribute to Near East Relief

# VERMONT FACT SHEET

Vermont 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.



- Vermont facilitated its relief efforts through its NER state office in White River Junction, Vermont; Ronald E. Stevens was State Chairman.
- The people of Vermont contributed more than \$70,000, in 1919, to feed and clothe the destitute and suffering refugees and orphans overseas.
- In 1920 Vermont aimed to raise yet another \$70,000 to help NER. To do so automobile owners were asked to pay a tax of \$0.10 per horsepower for their automobile.
- Those who didn't own automobiles were asked to contribute \$0.10 per horsepower for the car they desired to own!
- One Ford Owner sent a letter to Mr. Stevens, Chairman of NER State Office in Vermont, stating that his share of contribution based on his Ford car was \$2.20 but since he has the desire to drive a Packard, he had increased his contribution to a Packard size car tax!
- The Synod of the Province of New England of the Episcopal Church met in Burlington, VT on October 26-27, 1920, and adopted a resolution which expressed confidence in the integrity and efficiency of Near East Relief and pledged support for the work being done by NER.
- The resolution described the situation in Asia Minor and the persecution of the Christians by Turks. It further reminded their constituents of the bitter need which existed among Armenians and other races of the Near East urging them to give generously to NER's campaigns.



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- During Christmas celebrations, churches of different denominations joined together in raising funds for NER. Such an event was held on Sunday December 26, 1920, in Middlebury, Vermont, when the Sunday school of Memorial Baptist Church joined the pageant at the Congregational Church, for the benefit of Near East Relief.
- On March 31, 1922 a mass meeting was held in the City Hall in Burlington, Vermont, to raise awareness and raise funds for the suffering people of the countries in the Near East. Speakers included Dr. James Barton, National Chairman of NER NY; Dr. John M. Thomas, President of Middlebury College; Hon. Mason S. Stone, Lieutenant Governor of Vermont; Hon. James Hartness, Chairman of the State Board of Education; Hon. Frederick H. Babbitt, President of the Greater Vermont Association; and Hon. Curtis S. Emery, Ex-Mayor of City of Newport.

### **Vermont, 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, Vermont, We Thank You!



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