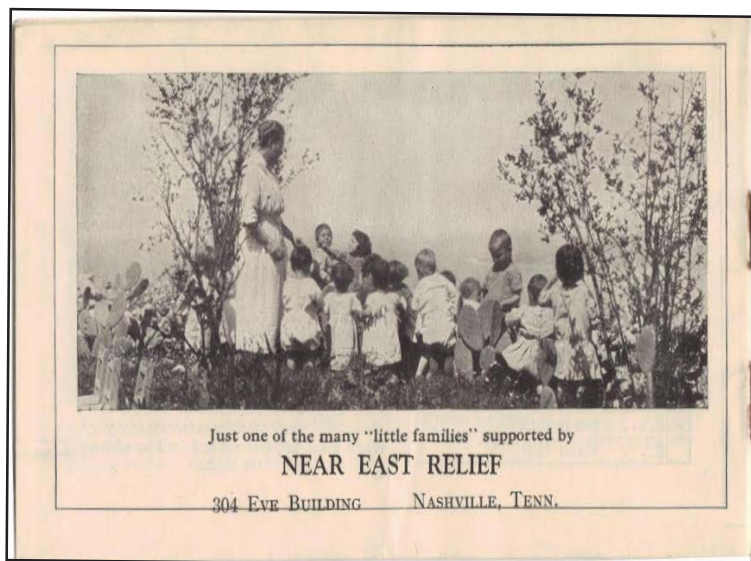


# TENNESSEE: A PROUD TRADITION OF HUMANITARIAN SERVICE

In the aftermath of the murder of over 1.5 million Christian Armenians during the first genocide of the 20th century, Congress enacted the Near East Relief to assist the hundreds of thousands of orphans and refugees in the region.



Tennessee played an important role in the Near East Relief humanitarian effort, including sending volunteers, like Miss. M.L. Caldwell, who was the chief distributor of Rodosto, Turkey. Miss. Caldwell received bales of clothes from her home town of Bristol, Tennessee, which helped the over 6,000 refugees located there. Tennessee established three state offices for the Near East Relief efforts in the cities of Chattanooga, Memphis and Nashville.

Tennessee continued to lend its support to Christian Armenians in the early 1990's, serving as safe haven for several hundred fleeing Azerbaijani aggression.

## In a Trouser's Pocket

SIX thousand refugees in Rodosto faced the bitter winter in rags. A hurry call was sent to Constantinople for old clothes from America.

They came, bales and bales of them, and the eager distribution began. To the surprise of Miss M. L. Caldwell, chief distributor, two of the bales were from her home town, Bristol, Tennessee.

A few days after the distribution a man, clad as a slightly shabby, but genteel American, appeared at the Near East Relief station. In his hand was a letter, which he gave to Miss Caldwell. The letter was worn; the ink was faint; the script was old-fashioned. To her complete astonishment, Miss Caldwell saw that it was addressed to her father.

She slipped the pages from the envelope. The letter was one that had been written to her father in Bristol,

Tennessee, twenty years ago, and the refugee, clothed from the "old clothes bag from America," had found it in his trouser's pocket.



*Miss Caldwell calling on a fatherless  
refugee family*