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# STILL ON THE CUTTING EDGE

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**N**EAR EAST FOUNDATION WINS 2004 AGFUND INTERNATIONAL PRIZE FOR PIONEERING DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS among 83 competing projects, in 32 countries, on three continents. NEF won for its enhancement of nursing as a career in Upper Egypt.

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Editor: [Andrea M. Couture](#) • Designer: [Ellen Scott](#)





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# OUR RECORD REMEMBERED

**N**EAR EAST FOUNDATION PRESENTED 2004 FREEDOM AWARD BY ARMENIAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF AMERICA, WESTERN REGION, "...for your organization's longstanding history of aiding the Armenian people and others in their darkest hours."

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## AT THE GRASSROOTS

### LOCALLY

From thousands of miles away they came to Near East Foundation's New York headquarters, little burgundy velvet boxes that opened to reveal brass plaques:

ASIRA EL-SHAMALLIA WOMEN'S CLUB

Thanks gratefully

NEAR EAST FOUNDATION (NEF)

For their helpful efforts in establishing many projects

With all regards

2004

And from the Albadan Regional Council "For your support and efforts" and the Bayte Imrin Village Council...all West Bank Palestinian towns.

Closer to home were recognitions from the State of California Senate and the State Assembly "...for bridging national and cultural boundaries to help people help themselves." From the City and County of Los Angeles, "...your commitment to helping people in the Middle East and Africa build better lives for themselves and their communities by working with local institutions is of great benefit to those you serve and to the global community," signed Los Angeles Mayor James K. Hahn.



## REGIONALLY



Presented annually “for remarkable contributions toward the Armenian people and the cause of peace in the world,” the Near East Foundation was honored in October with the highest award conferred by the Armenian National Committee of America, Western Region, a dramatic, nearly foot high, bronze eagle with outstretched wings. It was accepted by NEF Board Chairwoman Linda K. Jacobs and NEF President Ryan A. LaHurd at a gala with over 600 guests and a long list of dignitaries, who stood and applauded the presentation.

“There is no more meaningful acknowledgement than that which comes from those to whom we are most closely connected historically,” Dr. LaHurd told them. Near East Foundation was created in 1915 to rescue desperate and dying survivors of the Armenian Genocide and deportations, becoming the first nationwide, large scale, international assistance organization in the United States. In February Dr. LaHurd returned to Los Angeles to be featured speaker at the “International Relief, Refuge, and Recognition Tribute.” Near East Foundation was recognized by the Armenian Assembly, Armenian General Benevolent Union, and the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church, for its efforts on behalf of survivors of the Genocide.

## NATIONALLY

In April Dr. LaHurd was guest speaker again, this time in Washington, D.C. for the Congressional Armenian Genocide Observance held on Capitol Hill, joined by Members of Congress, civic, religious, human rights leaders, and Armenian-Americans from across the country. “The work of the Near East Foundation argues that humanity can respond to evil with good; to despair with hope; and to destruction with rebuilding,” he told the assembly.

## INTERNATIONALLY

Near East Foundation received the very prestigious 2004 International Prize for Pioneering Development Projects by the Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organizations (AGFUND). The announcement was made in Riyadh in September on the recommendation of a distinguished committee, and the award was presented in Tunis in December by His Royal Highness Prince Talal Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud. NEF won for its

enhancement of nursing as a career in Upper Egypt, in competition with 83 projects from 32 countries and three continents. “Looking at the overwhelming need in our world,” the NEF President said upon accepting the prize, “too many people regard as worthwhile only projects which affect millions...but every human life is of great value. And every effort which enhances a human life is an important success.”



# OUR HISTORIC MISSION

Near East Foundation's efforts and successes in 2004-05 follow, in keeping with our historic mission — **To help the people of the Middle East and Africa build the future they envision for themselves.**

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