



## NATIVE VILLAGE OF KOTZEBUE

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Tribal Government serving the Iñupiaq people of Qikiqtaġruk.

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**UNITY IN COMMUNITY - Native Village Of Kotzebue, Partners, Collaborate For The Greater Good**

**Kotzebue, Alaska – May 16, 2024** – Working together toward a common goal after the events of the Swan Lake Loop disaster, the Native Village Of Kotzebue, partners, and surrounding community are stronger and more resilient than ever. Under dire circumstances, decisive action and the quick assembly of a team of federal, state, and local entities offered technical and social solutions to protect residents, families, and elders.

Collaborating with the city of Kotzebue, nonprofit organizations, and businesses, resources were pooled and tailored to devise the best solutions and ensure that aid was efficiently provided to those most vulnerable in the community. This included simultaneous efforts between multiple agencies and contractors to thaw and repair frozen water and sewer lines, coordination of disaster relief with FEMA and the state of Alaska, as well as orchestrating the delivery of fresh water, emergency food staples, and cleaning supplies to impacted residents.

“Our community adds purpose and joy to our lives and is built on trust, connections, and caring for one another,” says Christina Qaiqpak Hensley, Executive Director, NVOK.

The community connections throughout Kotzebue are longstanding and the staff at NVOK from the get-go was focused on providing immediate solutions to address the needs in particular of Elders and families with children. Their dedication and attention to problem solving - often under frequently changing circumstances, was unwavering with an understanding that every decision was critical.

“We are truly grateful to our network of supporters and donors, as well as the NVOK team, who came together and put the health and safety of our community first.”

— More —

Better Life & Greater Security

The Qikiqtaġruṅmiut, forever sovereign, will live our Iñupiaq way of life for all generations.

NVOK extends its thanks and extreme gratitude to the following organizations and team members:

NVOK Tribal Council  
Alaska Commercial Company  
American Red Cross  
The Salvation Army  
The Food Bank of Alaska  
Walmart  
Gere Tactical  
Kotzebue Fire Department  
FEMA - Tribal Liaisons  
NANA Regional Corporation  
Northwest Arctic Borough  
Full Pallet  
Nasruk Nay Consulting  
Northwest Arctic Borough School District  
Kotzebue Middle/High School  
The Coca-Cola Company  
Maniilaq Association  
Tommy Reed  
Robert J. Allen  
Charlie J. Foster  
Roger Allen  
John Nelson IV  
Zaina McConnell  
Kirk Howarth Sr.  
Shannon Stalker

The collective efforts of these organizations helped to improve the well being of the entire region creating lasting, positive impact.

“We are, and continue to be, a community that enriches the lives of one another, past, present and into the future.”

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