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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 Qikiqtaγrunmiut, 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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