# Fall 2017 Venture

### Sitnasuak Helps with Hurricane Response & Recovery in Puerto Rico

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Sitnasuak Native Corporation (SNC) has and continues to offer help and support for the people of Puerto Rico in the response and recovery efforts due to the natural disasters that have severely impacted the area. This past fall, Hurricanes Irma and Maria together ravaged the U.S. Territory of Puerto Rico, and displaced many people and families to shelters, cut electrical power and communications across the island, and created flooding.

SNC has a wholly owned manufacturing holding company SNC Technical Services, LLC (SNCT) based in Puerto Rico and it is proudly one of the largest American manufacturers of uniforms and tactical gear for our men and women serving in the US military. SNC President & CEO Bobbi Quintavell expressed on behalf of the Corporation, *“Our primary concern is the safety of our Puerto Rico based employees, and we are here to support them in our efforts to ensure everyone’s safety and recovery.”*

The SNCT facilities fortunately only sustained minimal damages and the SNCT management team reopened for production on September 26, 2017. According to SNCT CEO Humberto Zacapa, *“We are extremely proud of our people, after what happened to the entire island. The response to the disaster and our ability to resume SNCT operations is amazing, and shows the endurance and resilience of our employees and all people in Puerto Rico.”* The SNCT facilities and company provide important economic opportunities for over 800 employees and their families in Puerto Rico which help in the ongoing and long-term recovery. SNCT is also a key US Department of Defense contractor for supporting our US military service men and women with uniforms and tactical gear.

To date, SNCT has 44 employee families that have totally or partially lost homes. During the response, SNCT offered subsidized lunch meals to employees and onsite daycare for employees’ children to aid in the recovery efforts. SNCT had also extended temporary emergency shelter to employee families at the company facilities. Sitnasuak had chartered flights to bring in communication equipment and satellite phones, and shipped generators, fuel, camp stoves, water purification systems, ice makers, and other necessary items.

To help and support the people of Puerto Rico, Sitnasuak has contributed to the organization *United for Puerto Rico.* According to their web site (<http://unidosporpuertorico.com/en/>), *“This is an initiative brought forth by the First lady of Puerto Rico, Beatriz Rosselló in collaboration with the private sector, with the purpose of providing aid and support to those affected in Puerto Rico by the passage of Hurricane Irma and Hurricane María. Puerto Rico needs your support. Join us and help Puerto Rico recover!”* SNC matched $2,500 in employee contributions from our Alaska staff – for a total contribution of $5,000. SNCT has also joined the Puerto Rican Government and Puerto Rican Manufacturers’ Association in gathering personal effects and non-perishable items for the residents of Culebra (the municipality on the island’s east coast) and their neighbor islands in the Caribbean after the massive devastation.

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