



**BENEFITS FOR HUMANITY:
AFTER THE STORM**

1

00:00:02,439 --> 00:00:06,749

The first pictures now coming in from Puerto Rico after taking a direct hit

2

00:00:08,280 --> 00:00:14,320

Hurricane Maria slamming into the island.

One official saying the island is destroyed.

3

00:00:14,320 --> 00:00:18,160

Hours, hours with winds and rain. It didn't stop.

4

00:00:18,520 --> 00:00:23,540

Power lines are down, streets are impassable, many roads are flooded.

5

00:00:23,780 --> 00:00:29,040

High winds uprooting trees, overturning cars, and turning buildings into piles of twisted metal.

6

00:00:29,769 --> 00:00:33,539

It is something that will change Puerto Rico forever.

7

00:00:34,600 --> 00:00:36,600

We had no water, no food.

8

00:00:36,996 --> 00:00:39,696

No gasoline, no communication at all.

9

00:00:39,956 --> 00:00:43,096

Not knowing where my next meal would come from...

10

00:00:43,489 --> 00:00:45,489

It hasn't been easy.

11

00:00:46,100 --> 00:00:49,940

After Hurricane Maria, everything was gray, all the plants were dead

12

00:00:50,940 --> 00:00:54,260

Hurricane Maria took the color away from us. I

13

00:00:55,129 --> 00:00:58,179

I am sure that these children will not be the same.

14

00:00:59,690 --> 00:01:04,540

They will not be the same. They are still struggling and trying to recover from this.

15

00:01:09,940 --> 00:01:15,280

My name is Joe Acaba.

I'm a NASA astronaut of Puerto Rican descent.

16

00:01:15,380 --> 00:01:19,540

I was about a week into my mission on the International Space Station.

17

00:01:20,320 --> 00:01:25,120

Hurricane Maria was forming up, and from there, if you looked out the window,

18

00:01:25,336 --> 00:01:29,396

You know, Maria took up a big chunk of what we could see it was going to cover the entire

19

00:01:29,396 --> 00:01:33,076

It was going to cover the entire island.

20

00:01:33,380 --> 00:01:36,600

After the hurricane, their power grid was pretty much taken out.

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00:01:36,600 --> 00:01:38,600

You just couldn't see the island anymore.

22

00:01:45,900 --> 00:01:52,660

The hurricane I think had a huge impact on you know, the the island as a whole but especially the kids.

23

00:01:52,900 --> 00:01:57,620

Joe Acaba was our hero, and we needed something positive.

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00:01:57,800 --> 00:01:59,600

The students needed something positive.

25
00:02:00,120 --> 00:02:03,940
We wanted to pull through, forget all that happened,

26
00:02:03,940 --> 00:02:07,980
and lift up our spirits, and lift up the island.

27
00:02:10,460 --> 00:02:14,480
So, I knew I couldn't do much from up on
the International Space Station

28
00:02:14,680 --> 00:02:18,260
But I did want to connect with the students to show them that there is hope,

29
00:02:18,520 --> 00:02:20,820
and that there are people out there they care about them.

30
00:02:21,160 --> 00:02:27,740
NASA has the STEM On Station which allows the students and teachers to talk to the

31
00:02:27,936 --> 00:02:29,836
astronauts in the space station.

32
00:02:29,840 --> 00:02:33,680
It's making that connection so that maybe you know, they become more interested

33
00:02:33,908 --> 00:02:37,328
and we can inspire them more to study the STEM fields.

34
00:02:37,468 --> 00:02:41,388
So we were able to establish and coordinate with NASA

35
00:02:41,540 --> 00:02:45,620
one of these video conferences.
Thousands of student from different parts of the island

36
00:02:45,760 --> 00:02:50,340
watching the video conference
with the space station, talking to Joe.

37
00:02:50,340 --> 00:02:52,340
This is Joe aboard the International Space Station

38
00:02:52,500 --> 00:02:54,500
I have you loud and clear.

39
00:02:54,500 --> 00:03:01,600
[OVERLAPPING QUESTIONS]

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00:03:01,780 --> 00:03:07,320
It was awesome because you know as soon as it came up you could hear people clapping people were excited

41
00:03:07,420 --> 00:03:11,009
So even though I couldn't see him, you know, I could feel him and that was pretty neat.

42
00:03:11,220 --> 00:03:14,980
It was amazing.
He called from the International Space Station.

43
00:03:15,120 --> 00:03:20,100
To see how Puerto Rico was doing,
and that means a lot a lot for us.

44
00:03:20,100 --> 00:03:21,939
A lot.

45
00:03:21,940 --> 00:03:27,840
In May of 2018, I was able to go back to the island.
My first time since the hurricane.

46
00:03:28,080 --> 00:03:30,140
it was a great opportunity to

47
00:03:30,340 --> 00:03:35,260
to get out and kind of come full circle with those students, to go and see them in person and

48
00:03:35,799 --> 00:03:39,029

you know kind of reiterate how important they are and

49

00:03:39,280 --> 00:03:43,740

Just to give them a little bit more hope because there's still a long way to go on the island

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00:03:44,160 --> 00:03:48,480

He's a hero for us. Kids love him.

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00:03:49,269 --> 00:03:51,269

Everybody loves him here.

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00:03:51,524 --> 00:03:55,859

Joe Acaba is the role model
that we need at this time.

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00:03:56,660 --> 00:03:57,720

I want to be like him.

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00:03:57,780 --> 00:04:02,280

I want to go far and I want to be an
example for little kids when I'm older.

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00:04:04,060 --> 00:04:07,880

Not only is the International Space
Station a great tool for

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00:04:07,980 --> 00:04:10,660

scientific research and exploration,

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00:04:10,860 --> 00:04:16,480

but for students from Puerto Rico in
particular, I think that having that