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Socastee Interview, Participant #08, March 31, 2021

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"Flooded Afterlives Project" Interview

Participant ID: 08
Community: Rosewood/Socastee
State: SC

Interviewer: Katie Herrell
Interview date: 03/31/21
Interview location: Zoom

This protocol for this study was approved by the Coastal Carolina University Institutional Review Board (Approval #2021.102) on March 3, 2021. All subjects gave their informed consent for inclusion before participation in the study.

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Interviewer: Let me see. Okay, I've never been like the zoom host before so I'm not exactly sure how to do everything.

Participant: I haven't done that either. I know a lot of zoom things but I never actually created, it is my first time.

Interviewer: Yea this is my first time. I like practiced it with my roommate and it went pretty well so.

Participant: Oh, good okay.

Interviewer: Okay, so just first of all, where are you from?

Participant: I was born in Altus, Oklahoma. And I, when I was eight we moved to Rock Hill. Are you familiar with Rock Hill?

Interviewer: I'm pretty sure that's pretty close to here right?

Participant: We're near Charlotte.

Interviewer: Okay gotcha gotcha.

Participant: Okay, but we're in South Carolina.

Participant: In about 1980 my then husband was transferred to Myrtle Beach. And so, we moved to Myrtle Beach, I was so happy. And we bought a house and lived there for a long time I ended up divorcing him, and eventually ended up. Well, I moved back to Rock Hill because of the flooding.

Interviewer: I don't blame you.

Participant: It got me back here up here. So that's kind of, so I'm in Rock Hill now. I want to get back to Myrtle Beach actually.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Participant: I love it there. Most of my friends around in Myrtle Beach.

Interviewer: Gotcha. Okay, and then, I guess, did you experience the flooding, while you were in Myrtle Beach like you said?

Participant: Um. Yes, experience. That week, the first flood, I was. I was taking classes in New Mexico. I took a four-year class I went there for four weeks four times a year, and this was my graduation week my final week after four years. And my fiancé was at the beach, he was in Myrtle Beach, and he knew that it flooded. I didn't, I didn't really understand the gravity of it at all until after I graduated. He was kind enough to not let me see the videos not showing me the videos or anything until the morning after everything had been done, and I was shocked.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Participant: So, then, we went home to it, it was it was terrible because I wasn't prepared for it, so there was stuff all over the floor, I had been moving things around because we were repainting, repainting the house and getting ready for him to move in and the place was, there was a lot of stuff, it was in disarray. And so, I wasn't prepared at all for my house to flood, and it was terrible.

Interviewer: Absolutely. Whenever you came back was it still, was there still water in the house or did you just come back and see everything misplaced?

Participant: By the time I got back the water had drained out. So we had to remove the walls, the sheet rock was, was molding. And so we had to pretty much throw away a lot of my belongings.

Interviewer: Yeah, did that include any family pictures or things of sentimental value?

Participant: Yes, all kinds of things, I had a lot of I don't know what they are, treasures? And some of them were on the floor because I had been moving things around. So yeah it's, you know, if you have thirty minutes to grab the things that were most important to you could probably do that. Just run around and grab stuff and you might forget some things, but I didn't have any time. I didn't know what was going to happen.

Interviewer: You had no warning whatsoever.

Participant: None.

- Interviewer: I'm so sorry.
- Participant: Uh we were in fact, we went to the mountains for a little, little mini vacation and my friends were sending me text messages saying, "We're so sorry," "Are you okay?" And I was saying I'm fine, I'm fine. And because I was about two blocks from the waterway I didn't really think that the water would get to my house, so I thought they just think that it, you know. But it was bad we got twelve inches of water.
- Interviewer: Oh, my goodness. In the house?
- Participant: I think that's right, twelve to fourteen I don't know. My fiancé, he's my husband now we got married, but he he went in there and the morning after I graduated when we were still in New Mexico he showed me a video. And the video you could hear, it sounded like he was wading through a creek, yeah.
- Interviewer: Oh my goodness, you had a creek in your house.
- Participant: I was, I was very shocked by that it was, that was when I started realizing that, what a what a mess and I just had an inkling though at the time of what kind of a mess that was going to be, whoa.
- Interviewer: That's crazy.
- Participant: Yeah.
- Interviewer: Was it just that one time that you experienced the flooding?
- Participant: No, two years later, we had another one, so the first flood was about about a foot, second flood was three feet.
- Interviewer: Oh my goodness.
- Participant: We did have warning, this time I knew a week ahead of time, so I was able to get a lot of my possessions, most of the house was emptied. But I haven't gotten a lot of this, the garage was full, because I had thrown whatever was salvaged from the first flood was in boxes, we had wiped it down and put it in boxes and it was in the garage still. I mean not all of it, I would go in and open a box or two every day.
- Interviewer: Yeah.
- Participant: Well, not every day [*laughs*]. When I was up for it, I would go in and get a box and open it and do what I could, with what I had, and I still had probably 75% of the stuff from the first flood in the garage. So when the second flood came, we got everything out of the house. My husband has a grand piano. I mean it's, you know, those things are expensive. My sons talked him into moving that, he didn't want to, they had to take it apart and move it to storage. There were people from churches, who were coming through the neighborhood and knocking on the door and saying, would you like some help and we'd say "Yeah." And they would come in and they helped us pack things up, it was, people were wonderful. My family came, my brothers my son's, whoever could come came. Some of my nephews and it was like a little army packing everything in the house, so we did, we got everything out of the living space. But the garage was chock full, I went in there and it was so bad. I found my baby book that my mother put together, so I rescued that and a few other things, but while I was getting my baby book

a whole bunch of stuff fell and I was almost injured from the avalanche. So there's a lot of stuff in there and it was a mess it was just a wreck and we ended up leaving that. And so I lost a lot of other things that were important to me and some of the stuff that, that was more heartbreaking was a letter from my father when. When I was little I have a disorder with my vision and my parents thought that I really wasn't very intelligent at the time. And when I finished my second semester at Winthrop, I had a high GPA and my father was bursting with pride. He was just...*[breaks up]* sorry... so overwhelmed. And I lost that letter. So some of this stuff you can't buy it again, well all of our appliances were ruined. The refrigerator somehow floated up. Yeah, there was enough water, so the refrigerator I guess was top heavy. And it floated up and then fell on its face, so to speak,

Interviewer: Oh my gosh.

Participant: And I think that created waves so stuff a whole bunch of stuff was fallen, fell, so I had the stuff, a lot of the stuff, in the garage I put it up on a table so that it would be safe, nothing was safe it looked like a giant had gone in there and just thrown stuff around. So still, in spite of all the preparation and all the work that we did to get everything important out of the house, I still lost some things that were important to me, some books and things that were in the garage.

Interviewer: And you could never have anticipated the fridge falling and creating all of that.

Participant: No, no, it was impossible, we had no idea and I also after the first flood I did get some insurance money from that and some money from FEMA. And so we used that money to reconstruct the house, we had to put up walls again, new doors, it was like rebuilding the house.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Participant: Because we had to clear out for away stuff so it... Samaritan's Purse, I'd never heard of them before but it's mostly volunteers who do the work, and they came in and helped us clear out all the trash and stuff we'd just thrown. We didn't have time to go through things so I lost more stuff that was important to me that couldn't be replaced.

Interviewer: Absolutely, yeah.

Participant: And you know, one thing was just a book that I liked a lot, and it was I can't find it anywhere. That I guess it's out of print now. *[laughs]* So stuff like that. I'm really glad to have what I do have, though, so the second flood, we were more prepared, but when we got to the garage and they said you want us to get everything out of this garage I said, "No just it's impossible." And so I lost a lot of stuff that was in there, the letter from my father was in the garage. There was a lot of stuff that was in there that it was just impossible to get everything out.

Interviewer: How much warning time did you have to get all that stuff cleared out?

Participant: We had about a week.

Interviewer: A week okay.

Participant: Yes.

- Interviewer: I guess whenever it's your entire house that could never be enough time.
- Participant: Yeah I, I have a lot of books. I still have some books from my freshman year. I guess maybe I hang on to too much, but um. So I have, I have an even greater collection of books, now that I did, then so I've got to get rid of them, I'm reading, when I read fiction, I decided when I read something that's fiction I'm going to donate it or give it to somebody oh I won't keep collecting them but..
- Interviewer: My sister is the same way. She asks for books for Christmas she has like three bookshelves in her room she loves reading and I know that she would be absolutely devastated if floodwaters or anything like that affected that and like you said, those are things that you can't get back, I mean a book is ruined.
- Participant: Right. Yeah yeah.
- Interviewer: But um okay, that's insane and I'm so sorry that happened to you.
- Participant: Thank you for your empathy, I appreciate that
- Interviewer: I could never, I grew up in Kentucky so we didn't experience much flooding there I lived on a little hill so.
- Participant: Oh, I've never been to Kentucky but.
- Interviewer: You're not missing out on much.
- Participant: But I've seen a lot of the southeast going from South Carolina to Oklahoma and back, we kept going back to Oklahoma every year to visit our grandparents and cousins. And so I you know, as I was growing up, I saw the southeast that's it. My husband is from Massachusetts so at one point in our relationship, I said, he kept telling me so much about Boston I said, "Take me to Boston." And we had, we've been to Boston I don't know how many times now it's three or four times anyway it's, it's fun, travel.
- Interviewer: I haven't been, I want to go at some point. But okay um so how did the flooding impact, like the community around you? I know you said, your family came and Samaritan's Purse helped out and everything, but what about like the houses next to you, your neighbors and your friends?
- Participant: Yes, the entire the entire neighborhood was flooded. All of our neighbors.
- Interviewer: Yeah.
- Participant: So everyone experienced the same disaster and you could drive through the neighborhood and everybody's yard looked the same with trash heaps in the front yard, the doors wide open and. There was a... The city did help us, I believe, or the or the county sent out a truck a large truck with just a big bed and I guess it was pulling a trailer with a big container open container and crane. And the crane would just pick up stuff and transfer it to this open container. And so it went down the neighborhood and and did that and it would come back again and again, because there was so much stuff people had in their houses and some of it was also the walls and the, you know appliances, we had to we just... Even our water heater was broken.
- Interviewer: Really?

Participant: Yeah.

Interviewer: It really does just affect everything.

Participant: So yeah everybody, everybody was devastated.

Interviewer: Yeah, did any of your friends or neighbors end up relocating or did they come back to the houses?

Participant: Everybody came back as far as I know. We were sort of, it was good to have that group support everybody was supportive of everybody else so. At that time I didn't like one of my neighbors very much I hardly ever spoke with them and but that got us closer. My then fiancé saw that they were going to try to sleep in the house, in their house. And you really shouldn't do, I mean it was a health hazard, there was mold, terrible terrible, it smelled terrible it was, and then we're going to sleep inside of that and he said no, he had a condo and he said come and stay with me and my condo. He didn't know them. And they're different race. And, and I just was so happy to know that about him that he was that kind and generous to invite some people he never met before, and who were from sort of a different culture, I guess, and but no come to my house and stay with me.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Participant: I was blown away.

Interviewer: It brought everybody together and circumstances just create that.

Participant: Yes.

Interviewer: That's amazing. So um another little question um, what do you wish people understood about your experience with flooding?

Participant: Well I feel like people do understand. My friends and family understand because they saw me go through it. So, but I guess if somebody who didn't know anything about, I guess, I would say, the main thing is that it's just heartbreaking because you lose sentimental things. And the second flood, I found I, I kept my son's drawings and put them in a scrapbook and wrote the date and, and what they said about their drawings, things like that. Those things were soaked. And it's not just water, the water the floodwaters went through sewages and a pig farm.

Interviewer: Oh, my goodness.

Participant: There was there was literally excrement, water and whatever else, mud. All sorts of toxins it stank. And then there was mold growing too. It was it was terrible the second flood was worse than the the first one, and it smelled. You could smell it driving into the neighborhood. The first one wasn't so you didn't smell it until you went in the house, the second one, you could smell it in your car, driving down. It was a terrible horrible stink. So, that has a huge emotional... You know the the nose is so close to the brain and smells, odors, fragrances, have a strong impact on the psyche. And so, this was our home and it smelled so bad, we had to wear gas masks. Going into that yes, I went into that, into my house, the second after the second flooding and my son was saying "Mom get out of here, you have to wear a mask," and it was just... I think I could go in there for a minute and be okay, but he would he didn't want me to be, to inhale any of that, so it was toxic. So, the emotional response was huge and then having people the kindness

of strangers... I didn't know I'd get so emotional talking about it, it was. That was wonderful, people I didn't even know. And it brought the neighborhood together. So, it's like, I don't know it was a disaster.

Interviewer: It's like even when you're going through the absolute worst of it there's always some kind of little bright spot or something and-

Participant: Oh yes.

Interviewer: The people coming together to help you, and to help each other that's just really beautiful.

Participant: Oh yeah my, you know, yeah, and the neighbors were all checking on each other, so I got to where I really liked this neighbor that I didn't like for so long. We're good friends now.

Interviewer: Really?

Participant: Yeah yeah we we call him every now and then we're we don't see these people too much because we're we're in Rock Hill. I uh, I stayed in Rock Hill this long because my mother is, is ninety and I was going to visit her three times a week. She lives in a residential area. It's independent living she still had a car and was driving every now and then you know so when I moved up here, but now she she's decided to give up her car, and um. But she has quite a community there and I was a part of that until Covid happened. And, and so I haven't seen her friends, for a very long time that I have gone to see her. And I'm getting my first Covid shot today, so when I have my, think I have the second one in about a month, so when I've had my shots I think you still have an incubation period, but after that I can go up to my mother's condo and and sit there with her in the condo and have a drink with her and that sort of thing.

Interviewer: That's wonderful.

Participant: Yes I'll be able to see her friends again, so that'll be nice.

Interviewer: Absolutely. Is she also in Rock Hill?

Participant: Yes, that's why I'm still here.

Interviewer: Gotcha gotcha.

Participant: I, I want to live, I want to move back to the beach, I have this very different, I have a women's group there and I'm doing the women's group on zoom or facetime or whatever, and, I, it's not the same. [*laughs*]

Interviewer: I understand.

Participant: So so yeah I want to get back there. I miss my friends and I miss the beach. We have gone back, we have found a place in Garden City and we go there and stay in Garden City for a few days, the next time we're going to stay a whole week.

Interviewer: Garden City is so nice I love that area.

Participant: I love the whole Grand Strand. I've lived there probably longer than I've lived anywhere.

Interviewer: Really?

Participant: In that house and I paid for that house. I made every payment. Even though my husband was living, my first husband was living there, I paid for that house, and so I was very proud of having bought and paid for a house on a school teacher salary.

Interviewer: Definitely.

Participant: Yea so I, and now it's, it's just not, it'll I'll never live in it again. I always thought that I'd go back and live in it again, but after the second flood I realized it's flooded again since I've moved up here.

Interviewer: Oh really?

Participant: But there's nothing in it hardly there are a few things, odds and ends in the garage but it's basically empty. And there are no appliances or anything so, no walls, we didn't fix it the second time. I still owed \$15,000 to the Small Business Association. So it's a low interest loan, but I still owed 15,000 on it when we were flooded the second time.

Interviewer: It's like the hole just gets deeper.

Participant: Most of my neighbors did fix their houses, but I looked at it and I thought this is gonna happen over and over again, why would I spend more money, I haven't even paid for the last one, why would I rebuild this. And so I moved to Rock Hill I threw in the towel and moved to Rock Hill.

Interviewer: Gotcha gotcha so did insurance and FEMA not cover the total costs of like rebuilding your house?

Participant: I I think they either would pay for it, or most of it enough of it that I could, I could redo the whole thing. But I couldn't see the point in rebuilding it, putting the walls up again and flooring and it's very expensive to redo a house, what I had was a shell of a house, I had the studs of the walls, but no walls. The toilet still worked but it, you know, we had no electricity, and it was going to cost \$7,000 to get electricity back, go running because all the wires had to be replaced. So you think about a flood, and you know I never realized how expensive it is. We had, we would really have to almost rebuild the the inside of the house and replace things a lot of the furniture, the second flood, since we knew it was going to happen we we were able to save our furniture and possessions. Well, not all of it but, but much of it. So, but, the you know it's, but both times we had to rebuild the the inside of the house, it's expensive, so we didn't do it the second time we did not rebuild. I just because it was going to happen again, I knew. I'm thinking Okay, climate change is happening, and we're getting hurricanes and they're becoming more and more devastating to that one neighborhood there were other neighborhoods in Horry County that had the same thing, and I just didn't see the point of spending all that money, knowing that it would happen again.

Interviewer: Yeah for sure.

Participant: And again and again and I, so if I had to I'm not sure I would have bought the house in Rock Hill, if I had to do it again yeah maybe, I was just, my husband and I were homeless, for five months after the second flood because we didn't have a place to live. And friends and family, we were couch surfing with friends and family most of that time. But that went on for five months, can you imagine? [*laughs*]

Interviewer: Crazy. There's so many things you've mentioned about flooding that just I mean I've been learning a lot about it in this class, but the things that you just don't think of when you think of the flooding, like the not having a place to stay.

Participant: Yeah.

Interviewer: Whenever you said it went through the pig farm I mean, most people never even think about that.

Participant: Yeah we-

Interviewer: That it would enter your house.

Participant: Yeah, ugh it was awful.

Interviewer: Yeah. But um so um, what do you think can be done to better support flood survivors, I know you said that you had some organizations come in and help you out, but do you think there's anything else that could that the government could do that organizations could do to kind of help out flood survivors, or maybe like prevent it from happening?

Participant: I don't think it's preventable because the ice caps are melting we're going to have more water, and so the waters are rising. And that also as a result of climate change we're having probably more storms more hurricanes and tropical storms and that thing that sort of thing, but this the last flood that happened, probably about a month ago. Of course, we weren't there for it, thank you God. [*both laugh*] But my neighbors I'm still talking to the people who moved back into their homes there and they experienced a third flood, and that was just from rain. There was no tropical storm no hurricane, it was just rain. And so that really alarms me.

Interviewer: Absolutely.

Participant: So I'm wondering, you know what what where's the safe place now? And and what's going to happen five years from now, and 10 years from now.

Interviewer: Exactly it's like I mean global warming, like you said it's only getting worse and only causing more hurricane sea level rise.

Participant: Yes.

Interviewer: So, like you said it's like what does the future hold? And it's a scary question.

Participant: You know, and there are people who want to say oh it doesn't it it's a hoax or it's doesn't exist or it's not happening if they lived in my neighborhood they might not be saying that, but they haven't seen it they haven't experienced it. And hearing that somebody flooded probably doesn't have the impact.

Interviewer: Exactly.

Participant: But when you experience it, I can see that this is happening. So, yes it's going to get worse, until that we can stop the climate change and I don't know how that can happen we're dependent on gasoline driven cars. I know my goal, one of my goals is to have a Tesla. Two of my sons have Teslas.

Interviewer: Oh, really?

Participant: Yes.

Interviewer: That's wonderful.

Participant: And yes, and so they are, they have the peace of mind, knowing that they're you know they're saving the planet, to a degree, they have solar panels on their roofs and you know that's good. But they they prioritized and they can afford it. [*laughs*] So not everybody can walk into the store or whatever get on the computer and reserve a Tesla.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Participant: And there I'm glad that I think Chevrolet has come up with the Volt that's I think that's about fully electric car if I'm right, and so you know but a lot has to happen to save the climate.

Interviewer: A lot.

Participant: Stop the melting. So, by the time it's hard to change everything real fast, so I don't. It's like driving a tractor trailer truck you can't stop on a dime.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Participant: It takes it takes those people who drive those things I'm glad I don't have to do that, but they have to be prepared to stop before a pretty they have to give it a lot of space before they have to stop.

Interviewer: Yeah, for sure.

Participant: And we can't change everything we can't change out all of our heaters, and the air conditioners, and whatever and we don't even have all the technology that we need to probably to, I don't know if we do, or not.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Participant: To change out and stop depending on carbon, carbon based energy. I know that you know we're going to try to do that, but it's going to take a long time and in the meantime the waters are rising in the ice is melting so-

Interviewer: Exactly.

Participant: So floods are going to have be more prevalent for a while, and and we're not it won't just be that one neighborhood or those few neighborhoods it's going to be more it's going to happen more before we can switch over.

Interviewer: Definitely and that's one thing I think you mentioned that everyone is so dependent on the things we have now that are so bad for the environment it's so hard to get people to to get a ton of people like the whole like continent that we really need to change their ways of thinking and make a shift.

Participant: Yea.

- Interviewer: We're so used to what we have that it's it's really hard for people to switch that mindset and realize that we all need to be making a change for the better of our whole world.
- Participant: You said it, yes, that's exactly it.
- Interviewer: Mm hmm. Um okay one quick question you know you how you said your son's have the solar panels and the Teslas?
- Jan: Yes.
- Interviewer: Do you think your experience with flooding and everything might have affected, how they view like climate change and made them more passionate about it?
- Participant: I'm not sure, because they, they were they actually all three graduated from Coastal.
- Interviewer: Oh really?
- Participant: Yes, so they had a good education and they they're they're also very computer literate they were on computers when they were three.
- Interviewer: Oh, my goodness.
- Participant: And so that was when computers were these little tiny little things not at all like what we have today. You had to actually punch in the programs, and if you punch something in wrong it wouldn't work. So it was really crazy back in the original home computers, so that was one thing their father did that was really good that he he started with computers in 1980. And, if you look that up what kind of was was thing was available you would just, it would be hilarious.
- Interviewer: Compared to today.
- Participant: We have more sophisticated computers in our cars than that, [*laughs*] you know so. But it was a, it was a start. And they grew up using computers. And my my first two sons are twins identical twins they're the two that have the Tesla's and the solar panels they both went into software engineering. And so they have the means. Their income is enough, they can you know nice houses nice neighborhoods everything. And my youngest son is with the North Charleston Coliseum he's he's a musician and entertainer, uh yeah entertainer he kept us all laughing when he was growing up. So he's the he's doing a he's an event manager, and I say you know that's really great for him. But he I don't you know I think he does, they do, they do fine. But I don't do well enough to have a Tesla and all that. The solar panels kind of pay for themselves eventually.
- Interviewer: Yeah for sure.
- Participant: I think that you pay as you go or something or you have some kind of an agreement with the electric companies. I'm not fully aware of how all that happens, but I don't think you have to pay for the solar panels up front.
- Interviewer: Gotcha.
- Participant: I'm I'm not positive about that. But the the cars, I mean to get a fully electric car Teslas are are are out of my price range, I mean I I may be able to do it now, I might be able to because I got inheritance when my father passed. But you know, not every you don't

always get a big landfall like that, and it wasn't that big, but it was enough that I can you know, but still. So it's it's sad that you have to have the means to be ecologically conscious to be well not for the conscious, but to act on it.

Interviewer: Yeah that's definitely like an issue I completely agree with it's like you might want to be environmental and like that's the case for me, I really want to, but whenever I was looking at getting my first car, the electric cars are so much more expensive, I ended up having to go with one that's not.

Participant: Right.

Interviewer: I don't know, I just tried to make small switches in my everyday life, like, I went vegan a couple of years ago to try to help out with the-

Participant: You're vegan?

Interviewer: Yea, I am yeah.

Participant: I am too!

Interviewer: Really?

Participant: That's good.

Interviewer: Oh, my goodness, and so whenever I started becoming more interested in environmentalism and everything. I just realized what an impact, it makes like eating beef and the different meats and stuff. That made me switch for sure.

Participant: That's neat.

Interviewer: That is neat.

Participant: I don't meet many people who are vegan but it's really.

Interviewer: That's so cool. Okay well we're almost done but um, I guess, this is another question it's kind of vague, but what is your vision for the future? Probably like regarding flooding and maybe I don't know I mean, do you think people should start relocating more inland and just not live near the beaches, or I don't know.

Participant: I think that in areas where there's a lot of water, I think that people may start elevating their houses and building houses that are elevated that is the solution that FEMA came up with, so one of my neighbors has his house elevated.

Interviewer: Gotcha.

Participant: Samaritan's Purse, the problem is that they look at your income before they help you. So it's like welfare, if you are poor enough they will help you so my neighbor was less well off than I was or in more financial trouble than [*laughs*] I don't know exactly, but so Samaritan's Purse and FEMA partnered to help people, but they only helped the people who had the lowest income. So, because my husband and I both have income, we we didn't qualify for any help at all. And with for some reason, with this that what they did was they decided to it would be all or nothing so if you qualified you got help, and if you didn't qualify. No help, none.

- Interviewer: Wow.
- Participant: There is no sliding scale or anything and personally I think that it violates the separation of church and state for FEMA a government agency to to to partner with Samaritan's Purse.
- Interviewer: I hadn't even thought about that, yeah.
- Participant: So I'm just going, no, that doesn't seem right to me yeah. But no, we didn't. I was actually bitter about it for a week or two, but I don't want to be bitter, so I decided to stop that but-
- Interviewer: Yeah.
- Participant: But I don't think it was done exactly it didn't seem like it was exactly done in an egalitarian kind of a way, so we just didn't we didn't get any help. So my house is not repaired or anything but I wouldn't have fixed it. I would have, I would have appreciated to the help to relocate within Horry County. If I could have. I have to say, though, I think every... My belief system is that even the painful things are beneficial to me and it really has been great being up here, where I can see my brothers more often and my mother more often so I'm grateful for that.
- Interviewer: So a little silver lining there.
- Participant: Yes!
- Interviewer: Was crazy that you mentioned, they would only help the people who are like really in need of assistance. It's almost like the people who have a ton of money and are very wealthy, they don't need the assistance, because they can take care of it and lift their house if they need to or it might just be a vacation house for them so they're still having somewhere to go. And then you have the very poor people who get help and then kind of like you, you get stuck in the middle and it's like you don't have the money to rebuild and it's like they don't help you because you're not poor enough, and you just become a little situation where you're not getting any help.
- Participant: That was the same situation with my kids when I got divorced, and I went through a period of severe financial difficulty for about a year and then I kind of got on my feet, but for that first year I was really hurting financially and I applied for my kids to get a reduced school lunch and I didn't qualify.
- Interviewer: Yeah.
- Participant: So I think there is a middle area where there's no government help, but you need some help. And I really had it was my family that bailed I mean my mother sent me the money and originally said you pay me back when whenever you can and it took me years but I got the money and I wrote a check and send a letter and thank you so much, and sorry it took so long. And my stepfather called me up and said on tearing this check up and so.
- Interviewer: So they were just happy to help.
- Participant: My father did the same thing, my father gave me a bunch of money, and I expected to pay it back and about six months before he died, I was able. I said I got the money and he said he said, ah nah. Families are wonderful they can be anyway.

- Interviewer: That's wonderful they helped you out and they helped you, with your house after the flood and everything.
- Participant: But I think that yeah that's the this part of a silver lining too, kindness.
- Interviewer: Yeah absolutely like you said it brings people together and just creates people, creates kindness in people like you said.
- Participant: Yes, yes.
- Interviewer: And I guess there's a lot of people out there who don't have the family, to help them out. So that's wonderful that you had them, I know it's a terrible situation.
- Participant: Yes, yes.
- Interviewer: That component just eased it a little bit.
- Participant: Right you're right. Like my husband. He doesn't have any siblings and his parents are deceased though he still has some family like some, a little more distant family but. I you know I feel very fortunate.
- Interviewer: Absolutely.
- Participant: That I had people who could show up. They dropped everything and came down.
- Interviewer: Yeah. Families are very important I'm lucky to still have mine with me so.
- Participant: Yeah, I was just blown away.
- Interviewer: Yeah, that's just a situation that just is mind boggling and you just need all the people you can all the support you can get.
- Participant: Yeah yeah.
- Interviewer: So um just a couple of little final questions but um, this is just the general like interview question but who should we talk to next? So like is there anybody that you think would also be able to help us with some information about flooding.
- Participant: Oh, you mean you mean other than people who experienced it or do you want your you you're interested in knowing some people who experienced it?
- Interviewer: Um it could be just be somebody who experienced it, somebody you know who maybe we are not in contact with, just somebody who might be able to kind of help us out with the issue of flooding and having experienced it yeah.
- Participant: Um yeah, one of the key people in my neighborhood...I don't know her last name and um I I would want to get her permission before I shared any of her contact information. I'd have to look it up.
- Interviewer: Okay yeah absolutely.

- Participant: She's in my phone but if you like, I could ask her if she would. She's sort of been the spokesperson for the neighborhood and the organizer and she's a mover and shaker she's been trying to get some widespread government help.
- Interviewer: Gotcha.
- Participant: They're working on a buyout.
- Interviewer: Oh gotcha.
- Participant: But unfortunately the buyout one of the requirements is that you're living in your house. So I there's no electricity or running water in the house that in that neighborhood. And it would cost so much for me to get that going so that I could say, "Yeah I'm living in my house." So, I'm going to probably forfeit the buyout.
- Interviewer: Well, if you don't mind asking-
- Participant: I don't mind. She has she's been the mover and shaker and she would probably be one of the best people to talk to everybody from that neighborhood could talk to you about the emotional impact and what they did, and what you would get different answers about that, but the. [*phone rings*] That was a scam whatever call.
- Interviewer: Oh yeah, I get those all the time
- Participant: I don't know that person. But she could tell you more about the logistics. She's probably talked with Samaritan's Purse people and FEMA she has talked with the Horry County government, I think I, and I think good one really good place to look information is the the Horry County council. I feel like they have betrayed our trust. Yeah that neighbor, neighborhood should not have been built where it is they that was all swamp land. So if you think about it, if you were looking for a place to build a house, would you build it on swamp land? [*laughs*]
- Interviewer: It doesn't make sense.
- Participant: I mean they filled it in enough that they can build houses there, but we're paying the price.
- Interviewer: Exactly exactly.
- Participant: So I think that that if I don't know if your project encompasses that sort of thing. But I know I I could probably provide you with a lot of names or I could give you her name and. We actually have a phone group, that I'm in so that somebody can send a text on that group and everybody gets it. And so, and she organized that so she's a she's a leader, a born leader and she so she would be a really good person to talk to. She could give you more details about logistics than I can. And she might be able to provide you with more more information about how many people live in that neighborhood and or how many houses are there, or whatever. But she also could tell you a lot about the emotional impact. I think she has a daughter also who lives and her mother so her family, quite a bit of her family lives in that neighborhood so that's a that's a whole 'nother thing for her.
- Interviewer: Definitely.

- Participant: She would be she would be a great person to talk to.
- Interviewer: Okay, thank you, and then, if you just want to ask her if she's okay with it, and if she is you could just send me her phone number.
- Participant: Okay I'll do that. I think she would be happy to talk to you.
- Interviewer: It sounds like she'd be a good person to talk to you about logistics and, like the more-
- Participant: Yeah.
- Interviewer: And then, just one last little question.
- Interviewer: Was there anything else you would like to share with me?
- Participant: I didn't know how emotional I would get... I can barely talk... I guess it was literally heartbreaking.
- Interviewer: Yeah.
- Participant: I mean emotionally, devastating.
- Interviewer: Yeah. And as somebody who has never experienced it, you would never think about how emotional that gets for you and then every time you have to, every time you lose everything it's just all the emotions all over again.
- Participant: Yeah and economically. I had that house paid for, I was proud of that. And I'm sure my I mean my son's probably think that house was nothing. But to me, it was huge that I single handedly bought and paid for that house on the on that salary that I was on and raised my kids. And I I'm very sentimental about it, I loved that house I thought it was great. And the house I'm in now doesn't have as much room in it. I keep I'm trying not to be grateful, so I'm trying not to keep saying there's just nowhere to put anything. But I keep feeling so frustrated like because I'm used to a little more space, and that was not a big house, but my my husband was a he's an engineer, so I asked him, he said yeah that house was about 80 more square feet. So, if you think about eight times 10 space that big that you lost out of your, out of your living space. For those houses, it was a that was a high proportion of the space that I had. It was not a big house, but it was three bedrooms and two baths two full baths and to get that up here. I'm surprised that also very surprised that in Rock Hill it's more expensive to buy a house here than at the beach.
- Interviewer: Really?
- Participant: I was shocked at that! To live at the beach, it would be more expensive, but no, because partly because of our proximity to Charlotte.
- Interviewer: Gotcha.
- Participant: And the people who are proud of being in Rock Hill don't like to say this, but I've been saying it for years that we're really a suburb Charlotte. Even though we're across the state line. People go to Charlotte for shopping and entertainment I've done that most of my life. If you if you know you want to go to the malls in Charlotte not here.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Participant: You know, if you want a quick trip go to right yeah somewhere in Rock Hill but. It's great having Charlotte there. They have concerts and you know, big medical facilities, and you know what everything that you would want they have it bigger and better. And so, and we're connected to that. So, and because of the, now the Carolina Panthers bought land in Rock Hill. They have a practice field. And what that did to real estate values, you would not believe. It's so I'm excited about that because I eventually I'm going to stay here while my mother is here. But, eventually, I want to move back to the beach I have dear dear friends, and one of my friends, closest friends has rheumatoid arthritis. She's in a wheelchair. She's the best friend I've ever had in my life. And and I I'm talking to her on facetime it's just not the same. And um so I want to get back there she and I've been her, she calls me her Sherpa because I can throw her wheelchair in the back of my car and we can go anywhere and whatever I would take her to appointments and whatever and I can't do that now. So I want to get back there and she's been my emotional support too. So when I went through my divorce, call her up, "Guess what guess what he said guess what," she's she was my person my go to. "What do you think I should do?" and she she's just been a great support to me.

Interviewer: Absolutely.

Participant: And we've been separated it's terrible. So I want to get back there and I also love love the beach. I'm a double Scorpio and I'm a watch, so water water water. I miss that. *[Interviewer's dog walks into frame]* I have a dog almost like yours.

Interviewer: Oh really?

Participant: Yeah.

Participant: A Pit Bull Boxer mix and she, she's a tiger brindle really beautiful beautiful dog and the sweetest thing. Pit Bulls get a bad rap. I don't know if yours is a Pit Bull, but it looks like it is.

Interviewer: She's a Pit Lab mix so yeah.

Participant: Oh okay. Mine's smaller oh she's not in here I guess. My husband had her back out. Yeah, she does she she wants to be beside me or him either one, very sweet dogs.

Interviewer: This is Lily. She's really sweet too. And they do, they get such a bad rap but they're so sweet and lovable and-

Participant: I think it's just how you raise them. Just like people if you bring them up right they're you know they tend to be really contributions so but yeah I think Pit Bulls could really do well to be support animals for hearing impaired and blind people and stuff like that or people who are physically impaired.

Interviewer: Definitely. Lily actually is my ESA so emotional support animal but not like physical.

Participant: Oh that's really cool.

Interviewer: She's she's wonderful.

Participant: She had special training?

- Interviewer: Not really, but she's just a good girl.
- Participant: Do you have, do you have a special thing that she wears and get to take her places that you don't normally take dogs?
- Interviewer: I need to get her a little vest because I finally this past semester I got my like actual certificate and everything and got her registered and so she needs to get a little vest it'd be so cute on her. But yeah so, I can't take her in some places, but um emotional support animals are allowed in quite a few places so.
- Participant: The Lowes in in Myrtle Beach, or is it Surfside.
- Interviewer: I'm not for sure.
- Participant: It's on 17 near 544 and the Bypass 17 bypass I think.
- Interviewer: I know what you're talking about.
- Participant: That Lowes they would let us take her inside the store, we would put a blanket or know her bed I'd bring a dog bed. Put it in a cart and then put her in that. And everybody in the store wanting to come pet her.
- Interviewer: Aww that's so cute
- Participant: Oh she's sweet but they would check and they look at her you know oh she's a Pit Bull oh. You know, and I, but I'd say yeah you know she's real sweet she's a real, people are so scared of Pit Bulls. She's really hard on the birds, though.
- Interviewer: Ours is too, yeah.
- Participant: We had ducks in the neighborhood. And the ducks would just walk around. At one point I've counted more than one hundred ducks in somebody's backyard, they just walk around well some people would feed them. And I've fed them some to. And, and if you feed them, they'll come beg.
- Interviewer: Yeah.
- Participant: And so there's all these ducks going around. And so, people would give them food and stuff and. I learned that if I let Zoe out in the backyard, I had to check and make sure there were no ducks out there, because she would run up grab one and shake it and it was dead it's like real fast. They're dead real fast and and so, and another time I was walking her here in Rock Hill and all sudden I realized she had a bird in her mouth, and the bird wasn't dead, so I managed to get the bird away from her, but I don't know if it survived. I don't know if it was injured badly enough or whatever that it that it survived but. So I have to, I have to be very careful about birds, but squirrels are another thing I I don't think she could catch a squirrel I let her there are a lot of squirrels up here on the Winthrop around the Winthrop campus and. Every now and then I would let her off leash if there weren't any people around and she would fly after squirrels but they could they would run up trees and telephone poles and stuff so she never harmed a squirrel as far as I know.
- Interviewer: Yeah.

- Participant: It's fun to watch her run but it's probably not too nice to let her do that.
- Interviewer: We have a little pond outside of our apartment and there's like a bunch of really large geese out there that are in the water, and on the ground, right now, and Lily tries to chase them, but she never gets them.
- Participant: Well, you probably have to keep her on a leash on campus, and I keep her on a leash here in this neighborhood too I I but. We have a backyard a fenced in yard in the back, and we did in Myrtle Beach also so. The thing is that ducks were getting in the backyard, we have the fence if they were large enough ducks they would they could fly up to the top of the fence and then back down onto into our yard and the smaller ones would just go through the chain links.
- Interviewer: Oh yeah.
- Participant: So they had no problem. Anyway, I think the floods might have gotten rid of the ducks. Either that, or people stopped feeding them and they went elsewhere I'm not sure, but I, I saw a few ducks the last time. When we go to the beach, I have to go look at my house and I don't always go in, but, uh now, this time, I want to go next time we go, I want to look inside that house because it actually flooded a few weeks ago, so I don't know how much water got in and if anything fell... I do have shelves in the garage and a few things on the shelves so.
- Interviewer: Like you said you never know what impact it's going to have like refrigerator causing everything to fall and-
- Participant: Yeah, I know it's so weird.
- Interviewer: Yeah I never would have thought about that.
- Participant: What happened, I think that the refrigerator floated up and fell and that created a wave. And it caused, but there is stuff I mean we had box boxes and books stacked on a table the table was sturdy. The table was stable, but this stuff on it was was not.
- Interviewer: Crazy, absolutely insane how it just affects everything.
- Participant: Yea, you know I didn't anticipate that.
- Interviewer: Okay well I'm pretty much done with questions and everything, do you have anything else?
- Participant: No, it's just great to talk to you I enjoyed that and.
- Interviewer: I enjoyed it too thank you.
- Participant: I will um. Okay I'm good with time I'm going to get my shot today and I'm really scared.
- Interviewer: Do not like shots?
- Participant: No, I I passed out when I was eleven or twelve or something I something was wrong I don't know what but my sister and I had our tetanus shots when we first moved to Rock Hill, no I was eight. And we both passed out. The nurse, the nurse caught my sister in turn around and caught me. So we didn't we didn't, at least in have the impact of hitting

the floor. But uh I don't know why we did that I don't know what was going on, but since then I've been terrified of shots. And so I'm gonna go do it, I actually considered it to be my civic duty. We have to get herd immunity and the only way we can do that is if people you know, find your vagina and go in there and- [*laughs*]

Interviewer: I agree completely.

Participant: As opposed to balls. Go in there and and get the shot and so I'm going to do it. But I'm, yeah I'll be glad when that's done, it's at eleven. [*laughs*]

Interviewer: I've heard it's not that bad, but I also do have like a fear of shots so I totally understand. When I was little my mom told me I had to get one, and I freaked out and I jumped out of the moving car and I hid in a random neighborhood for like an hour. So I didn't have to go. I've gotten over a little bit now, but they still freak me out, so I feel you on that one.

Participant: Yeah that's pretty extreme. Wow. Yeah I have that same fear though. So, so it's at eleven, I'll get it over with and then I'll feel better so.

Interviewer: It'll be done soon so.

Participant: Yeah yeah all right what was your name?...That's right. Thank you so much for interviewing me and I'm glad you found my name and I appreciate it. It was great to go through all that I had no idea how much emotion, I still had. Wow.

Interviewer: Does it feel better to get it all out there, a little bit?

Participant: Yeah, yeah it does so thank you.

Interviewer: Thank you so much for talking with me. I hope you have a good day and good luck.

Participant: Right you too.