

The Weather Channel Features FLASH Leadership Partner

FLASH Leadership Partner and tornado survivor Kevin Harrison and FLASH President and CEO Leslie Chapman-Henderson appeared on *The Weather Channel's* evening show, *Weather Underground*, on March 6 to make the case for disaster-resilient building and tornado safety. Meteorologists Mike Bettes, Dr. Rick Knabb, and Alex Wilson hosted the pair for two interviews that focused on the show's weeklong series on extreme weather impacts on homes and buildings.

In the first segment, Leslie cited the affordability and performance of resilient buildings during Hurricane Michael last year stating, "... it doesn't have to break the bank and can be done very affordably as evidenced by the [HabitatStrong](#) homes that survived the hurricane. Many of these homes survived with only cosmetic damage." The interview included a discussion on the importance of strong building codes as well.

During the second segment, Kevin shared the remarkable story of how he and his family survived an EF-4 tornado that destroyed their home in Athens, Alabama during the deadly "Tuscaloosa-Birmingham Outbreak" on April 27, 2011. Kevin, his wife Sarabeth, and their two children took shelter in a reinforced concrete block safe room as the tornadoes devastated their neighborhood and surrounding communities for miles. Their children, Sophie and Mason, were three-years and five-months old at the time.

The family emerged unscathed after the tornado passed thanks to the safe room that Kevin and his father built shortly after relocating to Athens. They are still shocked to recall how 30 seconds of roaring winds forever altered the lives and landscape of their community, and their chilling story is still heart stopping. "We probably would not have survived had it not been for the safe room," said Kevin.

When asked by Mike Bettes about the affordability of a safe room, Kevin replied, "Maybe you skip a vacation, and for a couple thousand dollars you have peace of mind and safety when you really need it."

We would like to thank Kevin and Sarabeth for bringing their life-saving story to millions of families through interviews, videos, and appearances. You can see the stories online by visiting [Weather Underground TV](#).