Category 5

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Follow Elizabeth and her family through this family-oriented video series which highlights topics such as preparing for a hurricane, how to help those affected by a storm and raises awareness for mental health after a natural disaster.

Directed by: Catalina Arce Elton, Kelly Dutertre, Michael A. Gregori, Griffin Voigt

Episode 1: The Announcement

Mark, Amy and Elizabeth Jones move to a small town in Louisiana. A few months after the move, a hurricane warning is issued for Louisiana and the surrounding states. Elizabeth just started the fourth grade and is worried about making friends.

Episode 2: Before the storm

Inexperienced, the Jones family scrambles to get their hurricane kit together and make an evacuation plan. The hurricane alert sends people into panic leaving the grocery store shelves empty. Elizabeth becomes scared and doesn’t understand what is happening.

Episode 3: The Aftermath

The first wave of volunteers reach the Jones’s hometown and begin the relief efforts. The neighborhood comes together and begins to assess the damage. While this takes place, Elizabeth’s parents begin to notice that the recent events affect Elizabeth’s mental health.

Episode 4: Getting Back to Normal

The Jones Family finds out that Elizabeth’s school had so much damage that she needs to be relocated to a different school. Elizabeth is nervous about starting a new school again. Elizabeth is diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and begins to see Ms. Lauren, a trauma counselor at her new school.

Episode 5: Support

Looking toward the future, Elizabeth follows the footsteps of Ms. Lauren and is now a trauma counselor. Elizabeth treats children affected by all types of natural disasters. Elizabeth often thinks about the affect Ms. Lauren has had on her.

*The following are stressors that will be ongoing after disaster. “Relocation, loss of employment, pain, physical injury, legal procedures, and financial loss are some of the common burdens that disaster survivors may need to endure.” - By Professor Richard Bryant FAPS School of Psychology, University of New South Wales

*“Researchers] found that evacuee children were more than four times more likely than the average child to show symptoms of serious emotional disturbance, which can stunt kids’ ability to advance socially, emotionally, and academically” - Katy Reckdahl, A Freelance Journalist from New Orleans

*This series will act as a catalyst for other web series covering other natural disasters and issues caused by the event.