

MY JOURNEY TO JOPLIN, MISSOURI

How this small Missouri city captured my imagination—and my heart.

AN INVITATION

I received many emails from kids and parents from Joplin suggesting that I write an I Survived book about their city.

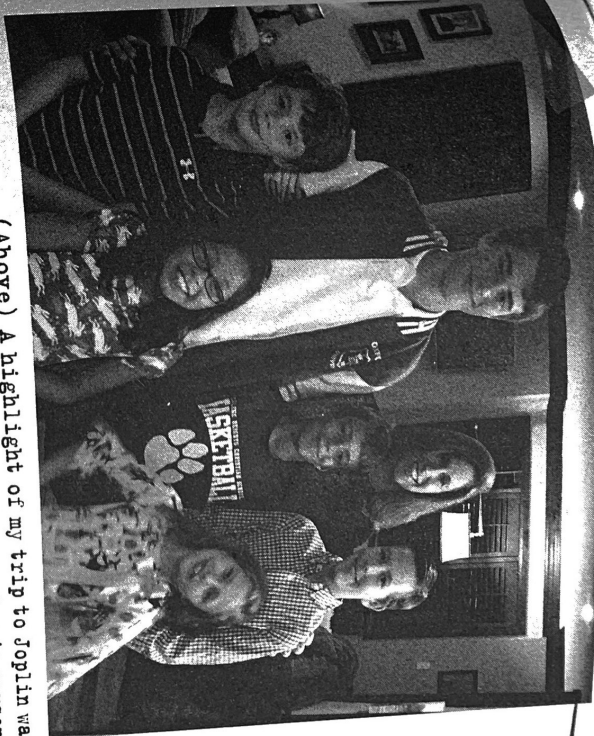
A FIRST VISIT

I visited Joplin for the first time in 2014 to research the story, and then wrote *I Survived the Joplin Tornado, 2011*. After that visit, I received a note from Mrs. Satterlee telling me that Ethan wanted to share his story.

A RETURN TO JOPLIN

In September 2015, I was able to return to Joplin to meet librarians, teachers, and hundreds of kids. I visited eleven schools and even got to have dinner with the Satterlees at their beautiful home. The visit was unforgettable.

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(Above) A highlight of my trip to Joplin was finally meeting the Satterlee clan in person. Shannon makes the best chicken and rice soup ever.



(Below) Dr. Katherine Cornelius was on duty at Freeman Hospital the night of the tornado. Here she is with her kids, Jack and Sydney.

(Above) The amazing librarians of Joplin. From left: Sara Hart, Linda Sharp, Stephanie Prather, Lauren, Ashley Tucker, Katie Moore, Vanessa Gage, and Suzy Elliott.

