Season 7 Episode 11: Katie's Story: A Family's Fight Against Fentanyl

[00:00:00] **Craig Robertson:** Welcome to the Robertson and Easterling podcast. Today's episode is one of the most important and heartfelt conversations we've ever had the privilege to share with you. We're joined by Richard and Kim, who are the parents of Katie. Whose light and adventurous spirit touched everyone around her. Katie was smart, resilient, and full of life.

She was a scuba diver, a show choir performer, and an athlete. To her mom and dad, she was Katie Bug, a young woman whose smile and determination could light up any room. But in September of 2022, Richard and Kim's world was shattered. Katie unknowingly took a pill laced with fentanyl, a substance 50 times stronger than heroin, and in an instant her life was gone. Just a quarter of that pill contained five times the lethal dose. She never stood a chance. Her story is heartbreaking, but not unique. [00:01:00] Fentanyl is now the leading cause of death for Americans age 18 to 45. It kills more young people each year than car accidents, gun violence and cancer, combined. Families everywhere, even those who feel safe and far removed, are discovering how easily this poison can reach behind gated neighborhoods and into the lives of ordinary young people.

Richard and Kim have chosen to share Katie's story, not out of bitterness, but out of love, faith, and gratitude for the 22 years they had with her. Their mission is to turn pain into purpose by raising awareness, breaking stigma, and sparking conversations to save lives. Today we'll talk about who Katie was. What happened and how her parents are finding ways to honor her legacy through advocacy, through their marriage, and through their faith. We'll also [00:02:00] shine a light on the Fentanyl crisis itself, so every listener understands both the danger and the hope that comes with awareness. But before we begin, we invite you to pause for just a moment of silence to honor Katie and all the lives lost to fentanyl poisoning.

This is a conversation about loss, but also about love, resilience, and purpose. And it's a conversation we hope you'll carry with you, share with others, and use as a reason to talk to your children, your grandchildren, your friends, and