

This heartfelt episode shares the powerful journey of Rochelle, a mother turned advocate, as she navigates her son Parker's complex health conditions. Her story highlights the emotional resilience, advocacy, and community support needed to face lifelong caregiving challenges—especially around Mother's Day.

Main Topics Covered:

- The emotional and logistical challenges of early diagnosis for children with chronic illnesses
- The importance of advocacy and authentic communication within healthcare systems
- Building community and resources through foundations to support families and children
- The impact of emotional coping strategies, love, and strength during difficult times
- How to advocate for better medical and emotional support for complex pediatric needs

In this episode:

- Rochelle recalls the first signs and the difficult two-year wait for a diagnosis
- The emotional toll, including experiences of misunderstanding and false accusations
- The chaos of managing multiple specialist visits and long-distance travel for treatment
- How Rochelle turned pain into purpose by founding the Purple Playas Foundation
- Strategies for self-care amidst caregiving challenges, such as arts and vision boards
- The importance of community, sharing stories, and normalizing complex medical journeys
- The upcoming fundraiser supporting children with chronic illnesses and their families
- Inspiring insights on what real strength looks like and the power of love in caregiving

Links:

- [Purple Playas Foundation](#)
- [Arthritis Foundation](#)
- [Child Life Specialist Resources](#)

Connect with Rochelle:

- [LinkedIn](#) | [Twitter](#)

Join us in supporting families like Rochelle's by sharing this conversation and donating to the Purple Playas Foundation. Your support makes a difference in transforming pain into purpose for hundreds of children and their families. Remember, Strength Happens through love and community. That's the power of shared stories and collective advocacy.