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The Joe Andruzzi Foundation Hosts Food Security Program Press Conference at Wright's Farm Restaurant

The press conference was part of the Foundation's 15th Anniversary Road Trip

North Attleboro, MA - (*April 3, 2023*) – The <u>Joe Andruzzi Foundation (JAF</u>), providing help, hope, and a reason to smile for New England cancer patients and their families through financial support when it is needed most, hosted a press conference on the importance of food security programs on Thursday, March 30th at <u>Wright's Farm</u> <u>Restaurant</u> in Burrillville, Rhode Island. The event was part of the Foundation's 15th year anniversary Road Trip, to build awareness about its mission to support cancer patients and their families during treatment.

The Foundation was created by Joe and Jen Andruzzi after Joe's personal battle with cancer in 2007. The Andruzzis wanted to help patients who were facing financial barriers that could prevent them from completing and sometimes starting life-saving treatment due to high costs.

JAF's Food Security Program, presented by <u>Amplix</u>, was launched in 2021 and provides New England cancer patients and their families with gift cards to various grocery stores throughout the region, giving them access to quality nutrition during treatment. JAF has helped more than 2,500 patients and their families through the Food Security Program. For more information on the Food Security program, visit <u>here</u>.

"During Joe's cancer treatment, we were so fortunate to have the means to pay for our mortgage and other bills, in addition to the medical costs, but so many do not have that ability," said Jen Andruzzi, President and CEO of The Joe Andruzzi Foundation. "Families are forced to make incredibly difficult choices during what is already one of the most challenging times in life, and we wanted to help, so we launched our Food Security Program."

"People having to choose between food or medicine for their families – it is a tough choice to make while battling cancer, and you don't want to make those choices, and that's where we step in to try and help," said Joe Andruzzi, Co-Founder and Chief Engagement Officer, Joe Andruzzi Foundation "With the support of our sponsor, Amplix, we try to support as many families as we can so they can go home and feed their families."

In 2022 alone, more than \$1 million was distributed in direct assistance to help 3,762 individuals with financial assistance to pay for housing, transportation, utilities, food, insurance, and other household expenses. Since 2008, the Joe Andruzzi Foundation has been able to grant over \$9 million in support to thousands of cancer patients and their families across New England. Since the Foundation's inception, the Joe Andruzzi Foundation has provided more than \$750,000 to Rhode Island cancer patients and their family members.

The Road Trip will continue in Massachusetts (May 22nd – May 26th), Vermont (June 21st – June 22nd), Maine (August 14th – August 18th), New Hampshire (September 11th – September 15th), and Connecticut (November 13th – November 17th).

About The Joe Andruzzi Foundation:

The Joe Andruzzi Foundation is committed to providing help, hope, and a reason to smile, for New England cancer patients and their families by contributing financial support when it is needed most. Founded in 2008 by former New England Patriots three-time Super Bowl Champion offensive guard Joe Andruzzi and his wife Jen, the Joe Andruzzi Foundation grew out of Joe's own successful battle with cancer and the couple's ongoing work with young cancer patients. In 2007, Joe's football career abruptly ended when he was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's Burkitt's lymphoma. Disease-free less than a year later, Joe and Jen chose to dedicate their lives towards solving the financial distress a cancer diagnosis can cause in the lives of patients and families. For more information, or to make a donation, please visit: joeandruzzifoundation.org or Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram pages.

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