



Shields Radiation Oncology Center • Mansfield
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combining strengths to provide better care



Patient Testimonial – Betty McHugh South Suburban Oncology Center

In February 1996 Betty McHugh of Milton, MA was diagnosed with breast cancer. There was no history of breast cancer in her family and she was shocked at her diagnosis. Her oncologist at South Shore hospital sent her to South Suburban Oncology Center (SSOC) in Quincy for radiation treatment. Betty knew that her oncologist's recommendation would put her in the right hands, but what she didn't know was that the team of caring professionals at SSOC would soon become like a second family.

Radiation therapy is different than diagnosis and surgery – it is the longest part of the treatment process, often with daily visits for a period of weeks. The advanced treatment and experienced doctors at SSOC were extremely important to Betty and her family, but over the course of treatment, comfort, compassion and personalization became an unexpected priority as well.

“My experience felt so personalized, so compassionate and so hopeful” Betty shared. “The physicians and staff embraced me and had a genuine interest in my physical and emotional well being. The entire team got to know me, my family and my friends...a new community was created that added lots of extra support that I really needed.”

Recently, after her annual mammogram, Betty received the upsetting news that she was once again diagnosed with breast cancer. This time she knew what to expect and she knew what type of treatment was important to her. She insisted that she return to SSOC. Betty was anxious, nervous and scared, and she wanted to be surrounded by a team she trusted. SSOC had the treatment she needed – and the open arms, warm hugs and reassurance to help her get through it.

This time, in addition to radiation treatment, Betty was offered wellness and energy therapies from the Oneki Center for Wellbeing at SSOC. The therapies promote and improve relaxation, energy, inner peace and well being. Supportive therapies are new to Shields Radiation Oncology Services and were added to alleviate stress and create opportunities for strength and comfort.

Karen Donnellan, Director of Oncology services stated, “Our goal is to have every one treated like you would want someone in your family treated. The addition of supportive services provides the advantage of having special time set aside for patients to collect their thoughts and feel calmer and comforted. That means a great deal to us.”

Betty agrees and looks forward to her treatment each week. She compliments Nancy Conroy, RN, BSN who provides the healing services. “Nancy has healing hands that are a gift” says Betty. “Treatments are complimentary for SSOC patients and as someone who has been through this before, it really makes a positive difference in the treatment process.

Betty went on to say, “Cancer care is challenging and requires a lot of decision making and faith. Having faith in an exceptional team, great technology and warm hugs makes all the difference in the world to me. SSOC is my anchor and has become my home away from home. I am grateful that I have options and returning to SSOC will give me the strength I need to complete my treatment, feel safer and hopeful again.”