



## Patient Testimonial – Eleanor Butler Shields Radiation Oncology Center - Mansfield

Ellie has a wonderful smile, a great laugh and a twinkle in her eyes. Last year the twinkle and the sparkle were harder to find. Ellie had recently lost her loving husband, Joe and she missed him and the life they shared together with step children and numerous loving nieces and nephews. They had always been the caretakers of the family and they were most comfortable providing support to others.



Ten months after Ellie lost Joe, she learned that after fourteen years at the same company that her position was about to be eliminated. She knew that losing health benefits would be highly problematic especially given the high cost of COBRA coverage. At her annual mammogram, her worst fears became realized. Ellie was diagnosed with early stage breast cancer.

“Dr. Paulson, my surgeon and Dr. Bornstein, my radiation oncologist provided me with hope and optimism said Ellie.

“They provided me with options, knowledge and confidence reassuring me that we had a great plan of action. Thankfully this made me feel calmer and safer. They also provided me with the time I needed to process and understand what needed to be done” said Ellie.

Ellie’s breast cancer was at a very early stage making her eligible for an accelerated breast radiation treatment. Typically radiation treatment for breast cancer is six weeks. New Xofigo technology permitted Ellie to be treated twice a day for five days . “It was a huge relief to be treated before I could have potentially lost my health insurance” shared Ellie.

When Ellie arrived in Mansfield for her treatments she felt supported and “like a person, not a number”. Ellie had the benefit of her sister in law Wanda serving as her advocate. Wanda helped her navigate and provided emotional support. This was invaluable and will always be treasured. “I felt well taken care of, the facility was attractive, warm and close to home. Some people think they can only get good care in Boston but I knew I was getting the best locally without sacrificing any quality”. The staff was outstanding always making time to answer questions and share hugs.” said Ellie.

Fortunately Ellie was able to find a new position at her company’s new location with a 100 mile day commute but she is thrilled to have it. She has the love and support of many friends, colleagues and family and has moved past a difficult time. Her laughter, sparkle and energy are back and Ellie is feeling better every day. “Hope and optimism go along way” Ellie reminds us and we agree!