



Louis Siegel
Volunteer 2016 and 2015

I decided to volunteer when my wife signed up for 25-mile ride in 2015. Fifteen years ago, we lost our dear friend Kathy to multiple myeloma. She fought bravely for 7 years, enduring two stem cell transplants and years of chemotherapy, before passing in her early 40's. She was the mother of 4 boys and they were family to us. In honor of Kathy, my wife and I started captained a team, 'Kathy's Krew' at another cancer walk in her honor. A large number of family and neighbors joined, as well as our son's sports teams from South Windsor high school. Our sons were our co-captains and we were the student's chaperones.

About 10 years ago, in a very short period of time, my wife lost her mother to ovarian cancer after a 12-year battle, her sister to lung cancer, and I lost one of my sisters to a recurrence of breast cancer. It was a difficult and painful time for our families. The events we took part in became a focus point not only for our family, but for so many of our team members that were also experiencing cancer's cruelty 'unfairness,' watching people they love suffer and losing people close to them.

In 2013, things got even more personal. My PSA number started to rise. I started to see Dr. Thomas Martin, a urologist at the Yale-NH Urology Group. After a biopsy confirmed I had early stage prostate cancer, we talked about options. He sent me to see Dr. Joseph Cardinale, an oncology surgeon at the Yale-NH Smilow Cancer Hospital. The time that these two professionals spent with me, and their warmth and compassion supported me through the emotion of my diagnosis and subsequent treatment.

I decided on a seven week, daily radiation therapy at Smilow. The staff at the radiology center was all so professional and compassionate, making my visits easy to complete. It's been just over 2 years and I'm thankful that my PSA is near 0!

My wife and I feel privileged to be able to do something to give back to our friends, our family and the research and treatment at the Smilow Cancer Hospital through our participation in the Closer To Free Ride.