



Name: **Gabby Spear**

Role on PFAC: **Co-Chair, Adult Council**

What do you do for work (or hobby or passion)?

In my professional life I'm a Total Rewards Human Resource (HR) professional, having worked in a variety of companies over the past 20+ years. Total Rewards means that I concentrate on compensation, benefits, HR technology, HR operations, and HR Mergers and Acquisitions (M&A). I love being in HR because I get to combine the human experience with business strategy, and I love building the bridges between the two.

What brought you to the Patient and Family Advisory Council?

After completing my treatment for breast cancer at Dana-Farber, I needed to find a way to make my experience a positive one, so I looked for volunteer opportunities. I wasn't ready to leave Dana Farber yet. I received a recommendation from someone at Dana-Farber to consider joining the Patient and Family Advisory Council. Once I learned about what the council does to improve the patient experience – that idea of being an advocate and voice for all the future patients and families coming after me – the council seemed to be the best fit to get involved with. I was also thinking about my two daughters and their future. My cancer is hereditary, and if or should my children have to go through this experience, I wanted to be able to build an easier path for them. For me, it's about leaving a legacy and being able to change the future, even just a little.

Why is the council's work important to you?

I had an incredibly positive experience when I was being treated at Dana-Farber. From the moment I walked into the building, I felt comforted, empowered and strong. I didn't feel sick. Being part of a group that focuses entirely on improving, building, and sustaining this empowering experience is really important to me. I want other patients and families to have that same feeling when they walk in the door – to know their voice is important and that they can be a true partner in their care. I want to make sure all patients and caregivers feel that empowerment, and to create an environment that makes the journey and the struggle feel manageable.

What do you bring to the council?

I bring both leadership and relationship-building skills from my business background. I enjoy making connections, and believe I can be helpful in creating that bridge between the patient, the Institute and leadership. I feel passionately about providing the patient voice in a way that is impactful and that can be a change agent.

What are your hobbies and interests?

I love watching British television and can get lost for hours. I enjoy learning and discovering new things. But most of all, I love spending time with my daughters and husband. We like to ski and go camping and take family vacations. I treasure that time together.