

## COMPASSIONATE HANDS

*“There is in every true woman’s heart a spark of heavenly fire, which lies dormant in the broad daylight of prosperity; but which kindles up, and beams and blazes in the dark hour of adversity.”*

- Washington Irving

**K**elly Turner, a 17-year veteran police officer, describes herself as shy, but you wouldn’t know it by what she has taken on. Motivated by her own cancer experience, Kelly courageously stepped out of her comfort zone and founded The CHAIN Fund.

The CHAIN Fund is exactly what its acronym stands for – Compassionate Hands Assisting Interim Needs. It provides a variety of financial and support services to people whose lives have been altered by cancer and who wouldn’t otherwise qualify for government assistance.

“As far as heading up something and being as frontward as I am now, that’s not in my character,” says Kelly, “but I love to help and I love to give.”

### **Golf ball-sized lump**

Kelly had served on the New Haven, Connecticut, police force for ten years when she discovered a golf ball-sized lump in her breast. It turned out to be Stage 3 breast cancer. Kelly was only 36 years old.

Beginning in July of 2001, she had four months of aggressive chemotherapy treatments – so aggressive that she lost all her hair after the first treatment. In January 2002, Kelly had a mastectomy and reconstruction surgery but there were complications when her incision re-opened. It took more than six months for the wound to heal before she could undergo radiation.

Kelly was back on the police force by January 1, 2003. But not until she had missed 18 months of work.