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4,000 expected to walk, run and raise awareness at HOM Teal Strides for Ovarian Cancer
Event is Minnesota's largest annual fundraiser for ovarian cancer research

(MINNEAPOLIS, MINN., July 31, 2014) The Minnesota Ovarian Cancer Alliance will be marking 15 years of strides against ovarian cancer at their annual HOM Teal Strides for Ovarian Cancer walk and run event on Saturday, Sept. 6 at Rosland Park in Edina. MOCA, a statewide nonprofit dedicated to funding ovarian cancer research, also provides support for those affected by the disease and spreads awareness about the symptoms.

Formerly called the Silent No More Walk/Run, the event is one of the largest ovarian cancer fundraising events in the country. This year, MOCA is predicting its best turnout yet. Teams ranging from 3 to 100+ people will join forces to fundraise to benefit MOCA's research funding and programs. MOCA is among the top five non-profit funders of ovarian cancer research in the nation and has provided more than \$4.5 million to Minnesota researchers. This year, the organization awarded a record of more than \$527,000 to Minnesota ovarian cancer researchers.

4,000 participants – survivors, family, friends and children – are expected to take part in the event. Because there is no test for ovarian cancer, MOCA's research funding is critical to change the course of the disease.

"For 15 years, this has been an inspirational event for anyone who has been impacted by ovarian cancer, including the thousands of Minnesota survivors and family members we serve," said MOCA Executive Director, Kathleen Gavin. "We're debuting a new name for the event this year, because we want to focus on the fact that ovarian cancer is *not* a silent disease – there are symptoms women need to know. We also want to highlight the strides we've made in research, programming and education, all thanks to our thousands of MOCA supporters and sponsors."

For the second year in a row, MOCA has the support of title sponsor HOM Furniture. Always connected to their community, the family of employees at HOM Furniture became aware of the effects of ovarian cancer after an employee was impacted by the disease and rallied around the event as a means to increase the impact of MOCA. "We are proud to support MOCA through HOM Furniture's title sponsorship of HOM Teal Strides for Ovarian Cancer," said Rodney Johansen, President and CEO. "MOCA does important work for those impacted by ovarian cancer, whether it is through the vital research funding they provide, or by education and support they provide survivors and their families."

The event takes part during September, which is Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month. In addition to HOM Teal Strides for Ovarian Cancer, for the third year in a row, MOCA is promoting their Tie It Teal ovarian cancer symptom awareness campaign.

MOCA will provide free teal shoelaces to youth sports teams throughout Minnesota to wear during the month of September. The Minnesota Twins and Rochester Honkers will also participate by holding their own Tie It Teal events at home games this fall. Teams and individuals interested in wearing laces can get more information at www.TieItTeal.org.

Day-of registration for HOM Teal Strides for Ovarian Cancer starts at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 6; with the 5K run starting at 9:15 a.m. and the 2K walk starting at 9:45 a.m. Youth participants can also register for a 1K Kids Fun Run. Early bird registration of \$25 for adults runs through August 1. Registration fees between August 1 and the morning of Sept. 6 are \$30. Participants can register for the event at mnovarian.org. Each participant receives a Teal Strides t-shirt; water and snacks will also be provided.

Mayo Clinic, Minnesota Oncology and the University of Minnesota Physicians are teal-level sponsor of HOM Teal Strides for Ovarian Cancer. Platinum level sponsors include Lessing Flynn, Downtowner Car Wash and Blue Ribbon Travel.

About the Minnesota Ovarian Cancer Alliance: The Minnesota Ovarian Cancer Alliance (MOCA) is a statewide non-profit organization dedicated to raising awareness, providing support to women and families impacted by the disease and funding the research needed to detect ovarian cancer early and treat it properly. MOCA is made up of a network of more than 1,000 survivors and 45,000 supporters with a full range of programs encompassing education, support and research. MOCA has awarded more than \$4.5 million to research projects for ovarian cancer research in Minnesota. For additional information, go to www.mnovarian.org or call (612) 822-0500.