



CONTACT: Becky Lechner  
MOCA Communications Manager  
(612) 822-0500  
[rlechner@mnovarian.org](mailto:rlechner@mnovarian.org)

**HOM Teal Strides for Ovarian Cancer to attract 3,000+ runner and walkers this September**  
*Updated race course and entertainment planned for Minnesota's largest ovarian cancer fundraiser*

(MINNEAPOLIS, MINN., July 27, 2017). The Minnesota Ovarian Cancer Alliance (MOCA) will mark its 18<sup>th</sup> year of strides against ovarian cancer at their annual HOM Teal Strides for Ovarian Cancer walk and run on Saturday, Sept. 16 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.

HOM Teal Strides for Ovarian Cancer is one of the largest ovarian cancer fundraising events in the country and is MOCA's largest event for research funding and programming. When participants register individually or with a team, they get customizable webpages to share their goals and raise funds with friends and family.

Last year, HOM Teal Strides walkers and runners raised \$310,000 for ovarian cancer research and programming. This year, the organization aims to raise \$335,000. Because there is no test for ovarian cancer, MOCA's research funding is critical to change the course of the disease. Each year in Minnesota, nearly 400 women are diagnosed with ovarian cancer.

MOCA is among the top three non-profit funders of ovarian cancer research in the nation and has provided more than \$7 million to Minnesota researchers. This year, the organization awarded \$775,000 to ovarian cancer research projects in Minnesota. This year MOCA expanded their reach by funding of national research, by providing \$100,000 to national researchers focused on an early detection test. That award will be announced in November 2017.

"For the past 18 years, one of MOCA's main goals has been to find a test for ovarian cancer," MOCA Executive Director, Kathleen Gavin. "Too many women are diagnosed at a late stage of ovarian cancer when treatments are not as effective. We are getting closer – but more needs to be done. MOCA and our supporters are committed to one day discovering a diagnostic test and developing better treatments that will save the lives of women."

At the event, MOCA will take its annual aerial photograph of ovarian cancer survivors to honor those women on race day. For the second year in a row, MOCA is including special inspiration signs throughout the course that will feature personalized messages. These signs are available for those who have fundraised \$1,000 or more by August 16.

New this year, the race course will be updated for both the 5K runners and 2k walkers. Also newly launched, the event will feature music and entertainment along the race course and more activities for kids and families. The event also includes a Kids Fun Run and activity tent

For the fifth year in a row, MOCA has the support of title sponsor HOM Furniture. MOCA is also thrilled to welcome back *WCCO-TV* anchor Kim Johnson as HOM Teal Strides emcee.

Johnson has been impacted by ovarian cancer, as her mother is a survivor. “As the daughter of an ovarian cancer survivor, I know just how vital it is that we make a difference against this disease,” said Johnson. “My mom was one of the fortunate ones, because she was diagnosed at an early stage. But most women are not that fortunate, because there is no test for ovarian cancer. I’m excited to come back to HOM Teal Strides to raise money and awareness for MOCA, and bring us closer to a diagnostic test, better treatments and a cure for ovarian cancer.”

The event takes place during September, which is Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month. In addition to HOM Teal Strides for Ovarian Cancer, MOCA will be launching the MOCA Light the Night campaign on Friday, Sept. 1, when major landmarks and bridges throughout the state and Midwest will be lit in teal. New this year, MOCA will be lighting the U.S. Bank Stadium in teal.

Day-of registration for HOM Teal Strides for Ovarian Cancer starts at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 16; 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 Kids Fun Run. Early bird registration of \$30 for adults runs through August 16. Registration fees between August 17 and the morning of Sept. 16 are \$35. Participants can register for the event at [mnovarian.org](http://mnovarian.org).

Each participant receives a HOM Teal Strides t-shirt; water and snacks will also be provided. Ovarian cancer survivors will receive a Teal Ribbon tote bag filled with comfort items at the Survivor Tent.

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

**About the Minnesota Ovarian Cancer Alliance:** The Minnesota Ovarian Cancer Alliance (MOCA) is a statewide, private, non-profit organization, founded in 1999, 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 serves more than 1,000 survivors and has a network of more than 45,000 supporters with a full range of programs encompassing education, support and research. MOCA has awarded more than \$7 million to 60+ ovarian cancer research projects in Minnesota. For additional information, go to [www.mnovarian.org](http://www.mnovarian.org) or call (612) 822-0500.