



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

**MOCA's Mid Summer Night's Gala Features Broadway Star and Survivor Valisia LeKae**  
*Award-winning actress will inspire the crowd as keynote speaker*

(Minneapolis, MINN. June 9, 2014). This July, the Minnesota Ovarian Cancer Alliance is bringing inspiration and a touch of Broadway glamour to the stage at their annual Mid Summer Night's Gala.

Broadway star Valisia LeKae, who is best known for playing the role of Diana Ross in *Motown: The Musical*, will share her story with the crowd at Brackett's Crossing Country Club in Lakeville, Minn. on Sunday, July 20. The Grammy and Tony-Award nominated actress was diagnosed with ovarian cancer last fall at the age of 34. Since then, she has been an outspoken advocate for ovarian cancer awareness and advocacy.

"I'm excited to connect with MOCA's supporters and offer my story as a source of inspiration and hope to the crowd," said LeKae. "Women need to know about the symptoms – and more research is needed to help us find an early detection test for ovarian cancer. It's organizations like MOCA that are making a difference and leading the cause in this effort."

The Gala is part of two days of festivities benefitting MOCA, a Minnesota-based non-profit dedicated to raising awareness, providing support and funding the research needed to detect ovarian cancer early and treat it properly. Celebrating 15 years in 2014, MOCA is a leader in ovarian cancer research funding, having provided more than \$4.5 million to Minnesota research projects.

The Mid Summer Night's Gala is followed by the Molly Cade Scramble for Ovarian Cancer, taking place at Brackett's Crossing Country Club on Monday, July 21. Combined, these two events bring in more than \$100,000 to realize MOCA's mission. More than 500 supporters are expected to attend the two events.

- The Mid Summer Night's Gala will be held on Sunday, July 20 at Brackett's Crossing Country Club in Lakeville, Minn. The event begins at 5:00 pm and is hosted by Ann Carroll, an Emmy-award winning sports reporter and ovarian cancer survivor. All are invited to attend and enjoy a three course dinner, silent and live auctions, and an appearance from Valisia LeKae. The event is dressy casual and attendees are encouraged to wear teal, the color of ovarian cancer awareness.
- The Molly Cade Scramble for Ovarian Cancer is a fun morning or afternoon tournament designed for golfers of all abilities. Held at Brackett's Crossing Country Club in Lakeville, Minn. on Monday, July 21, the tournament includes 18 holes of golf, giveaway items, breakfast or lunch, along with a ticket to the Mid Summer Night's Gala held the evening before. Each golfer will receive a high-performance, Ogio-brand golf shirt. The event is named in memory of Molly Cade, one of the founding members of MOCA.

“This year, the theme of the Mid Summer Night’s Gala is ‘Reach for the Stars.’ We’re excited to have the star power of Valisia at the event to help inspire our crowd, but it’s also a reminder that MOCA supporters are reaching for the stars when it comes to changing the course of ovarian cancer – by working towards an early detection test and better treatments for women with the disease. The money raised at these events will spur on the innovative and important research that MOCA funds,” said Kathleen Gavin, MOCA executive director.

Besides funding research, MOCA educates the public and the medical community about the disease and provides support to women and their families affected by ovarian cancer through support groups and the MOCA Mentor program.

Entrance fees for the Molly Cade Scramble for Ovarian Cancer are \$250 per person, which includes a ticket to the Mid Summer Night’s Gala. Ovarian cancer survivors golf free when they bring three paying guests. Individual tickets for the Mid Summer Night’s Gala can be purchased for \$75 each. Attendees can take part in one or both events.

MOCA is grateful to this year’s presenting sponsors: King Solutions, Inc. and Eastlund, Solstad, Cade, Hutchinson, and Ysebaert Ltd.

For ticket information or more information about the MOCA’s events, visit [www.mnovarian.org](http://www.mnovarian.org) or call (612) 822-0500.

**About the Minnesota Ovarian Cancer Alliance:** The Minnesota Ovarian Cancer Alliance (MOCA) is a statewide 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 \$4.5 million to 50+ ovarian cancer research projects in Minnesota. For additional information, go to [www.mnovarian.org](http://www.mnovarian.org) or call (612) 822-0500.