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### **Calling All Angels Raising Awareness of Ovarian Cancer One Party at a Time**

**Minneapolis, MN-** The week of April 19-26 is Minnesota Ovarian Cancer Alliance's Calling All Angels Week where parties are being held across the state of Minnesota in a grassroots effort to raise awareness of ovarian cancer and its symptoms.

Calling All Angels was the idea of MOCA board president Lisa McLaughlin who hosted the first event in 2004 in memory of Jane Franczyk, Ms. McLaughlin's step mother who died from ovarian cancer at the age of 51. "Our first event was a gala," said McLaughlin, "Over the years the event has evolved so that more people could get involved. Now survivors, family, friends, and members of the medical community are joining forces and hosting smaller gatherings to help get the word out about ovarian cancer."

The response has been very successful. In 2007 there were more than a dozen parties. This year, the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Calling All Angels Event highlights over 20 parties throughout Minnesota and Iowa. "We are finding that this event alternative offers a chance for people who might not attend a huge gala event to have a small gathering in their neighborhood, at work, or their place of worship," said Kathleen Gavin, MOCA Executive Director, "It offers MOCA the chance to reach communities that are out of the Metro area, and spread awareness throughout the state of Minnesota and beyond."

MOCA supports the parties by offering free invitations, brochures, symptom cards, teal pins, donation envelopes, and DVD's about ovarian cancer and MOCA's mission. MOCA will also provide a speaker or additional educational materials if requested.

More than 20 parties are being held across the state of Minnesota and Iowa:

- The largest being a casino night in Minnetrista, MN held by Lisa McLaughlin
- A teal Martini Party thrown by a family of an ovarian cancer survivor in Richfield, MN
- A chocolate and coffee party for 30 women in Minneapolis
- A chocolate fountain party for over 75 women in South Minneapolis

- A corporate luncheon to raise awareness of ovarian cancer in honor of a fellow co-worker who is an ovarian cancer survivor in Golden Valley
- A Women's Club speaking engagement to 75 women in Iowa
- A nurse dedicating time to conduct lectures at 6 Early Childhood Education Classes (ECFE) in Kelsey, MN
- Fairview Medical Center in Hibbing is hosting a Calling All Angels dessert hour during their annual Velvet and Iron Conference reaching 175 women.
- A MOCA board member is having a magic party in Golden Valley, MN
- A wine tasting for 75 people in St. Paul
- A church luncheon in Sleepy Eye, MN
- A big party and raffle at the local VFW in Farmington, MN
- A number of brunches and tea parties throughout the state

In just eight years, MOCA has raised more than \$2 million for ovarian cancer research in Minnesota. The grants are awarded to advance research toward earlier detection, better treatment and a cure. The funding remains in the state so women who live here will be the first to benefit from any advances made.

For more information about MOCA, Calling All Angels, or ovarian cancer, visit [www.mnovairan.org](http://www.mnovairan.org)

Founded in 1999 by a small group of ovarian cancer survivors, Minnesota Ovarian Cancer Alliance funds research, raises awareness of the disease and provides support to women with ovarian cancer and their families.