

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Constance White
Minnesota Ovarian Cancer Alliance
612/822-0500
cwhite@mnovarian.org

Katherine Roepke
Roepke Public Relations
612/677-1717
kroepke@roepkepr.com

Minnesota Ovarian Cancer Alliance to Celebrate Ten Years of Success with 10th Anniversary Gala

Minneapolis, July 14, 2009 – The Minnesota Ovarian Cancer Alliance (MOCA) will celebrate ten years of success and accomplishment with its 10th Anniversary Gala on Sunday, July 19, at 5:00 p.m. The event, taking place in the Platinum Ballroom at Brackett's Crossing Country Club in Lakeville, will feature a slideshow, dinner, raffle with thousands of dollars in prizes, and a silent auction. Speakers include Karen Orloff Kaplan, CEO of Ovarian Cancer National Alliance (OCNA); Amy Skubitz, five-time MOCA research grant recipient; and Dixie Manley, ovarian cancer survivor who went through a MOCA funded measles vaccine research trial. The event will be emceed by Belinda Jensen of KARE 11. Cost is \$50.

"Since its creation ten years ago, MOCA has grown to be one of the strongest most effective ovarian cancer advocacy organizations in the country," said Kathleen Gavin, Executive Director, MOCA. " We have a passionate board of directors unified behind a very clear mission, an incredibly competent and hardworking staff, hundreds of dedicated volunteers and the support of the medical community. We have been successful at developing and implementing model programs including innovative medical and public educations initiatives and one of the top five research funding programs in the country."

MOCA was formed in 1999 by a small group of ovarian cancer survivors, who started the organization by meeting in the first named president Molly Cade's living room. MOCA's mission is to create an awareness regarding early warning signs that may be indicative of ovarian cancer; to create and promote resources for support, networking and education for women diagnosed with ovarian cancer and their families; to unite and educate individuals, the medical community and organizations to achieve earlier diagnosis, better treatment and a cure for ovarian cancer; and to advance ovarian cancer research toward earlier diagnosis, better treatment, and a cure.

Kristen Larson, a survivor who has been very involved with MOCA for the past seven years, will be one of the many survivors attending the celebration. "I feel blessed to have witnessed MOCA grow in strength over the years and I look forward to continuing to do my part in the future success of MOCA," she says. "The achievements of the past ten years give us *many* reasons to celebrate MOCA's anniversary. And ten years from

now, look for me again, I'll be the 'old young survivor' still hovering over the silent auction table at the 20th Anniversary Gala! To think how far this grassroots organization has come in its first ten years, I can only begin to imagine what we can do in the next ten!"

For more information about MOCA, the 10th Anniversary Gala or ovarian cancer, visit www.mnovarian.org.

About the Minnesota Ovarian Cancer Alliance (MOCA):

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