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**SILENT NO MORE 24-HOUR MARATHON SWIM FOR OVARIAN CANCER  
TO BE HELD IN ROCHESTER**

Rochester, MN – At noon on November 2, they will dive into the pool at the Rochester Area Y and they won't stop swimming until the clock strikes 12 the next day. Mayo Chaplain Mary E. Johnson, age 53, of Rochester, and Claire Casselman, a 50-year-old social worker from Ann Arbor, MI, are undertaking this 24-hour marathon swim to raise awareness of ovarian cancer and raise funds to Minnesota Ovarian Cancer Alliance (MOCA).

Johnson has been a swimmer most of her life and began distance swimming almost ten years ago. The quietness of the sport gives her the opportunity to reflect on her day and meditate on women dealing with ovarian, primary peritoneal or fallopian tube cancer. "Two middle-aged women swimming for 24-hours is a great way to draw attention to any cause," explains Ms. Johnson, a chaplain at Mayo Clinic in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. "We are focusing on raising awareness of ovarian cancer. We want health care professionals to be aware. We want women to know the warning signs. And we want the public to know about the great work of the Minnesota Ovarian Cancer Alliance as major funders of ovarian cancer research in Minnesota."

"We are so pleased that Mary is undertaking this marathon swim for the second year in a row," says Kathleen Gavin, MOCA's executive director. "We greatly appreciate her effort to raise awareness of ovarian cancer in southeastern Minnesota. Together, we will work to better educate the public about the symptoms of the disease and the importance of early detection."

The Rochester Area Family YMCA, located at 709 First Avenue SW, has donated two lanes of the pool for Ms. Johnson and Ms. Casselman to use for the duration of their swim.

For more information, or to make a contribution to the marathon swim, visit MOCA's web site: [www.mnovarian.org](http://www.mnovarian.org). Or call MOCA, **612/822-0500**.

Donations received from the Silent No More Marathon Swim will be dedicated to MOCA's mission of funding ovarian cancer research, raising awareness of the disease and providing support for women with ovarian cancer and their families. In just seven years, MOCA has awarded \$1.7 million for research in Minnesota.

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