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**BIG WALTER SMITH & THE GROVE MERCHANTS
AT THE ANDROY IN HIBBING**

**A Benefit for Minnesota Ovarian Cancer Alliance
Hosted by Ovarian Cancer Survivor Joan Cotton**

Hibbing, MN -- On November 3, Big Walter Smith & the Grove Merchants will be performing at the Androy in Hibbing. They are one of the most popular Blues bands in the Midwest and they are coming to town to play for this event, which benefits Minnesota Ovarian Cancer Alliance (MOCA).

The idea for the benefit was conceived by Joan Cotton who lives in Hibbing and works at Remax Northern Properties. Joan was diagnosed with ovarian cancer several years ago and when she was going through chemo, she told herself she would do something to raise awareness of the disease once she felt better and this event is it!

"I wanted to have an event to make more people aware of ovarian cancer. By sharing this information with others, maybe I can help another woman get diagnosed earlier, explains Joan. "I also want to raise awareness among health care professionals. I was experiencing symptoms and visiting the doctor for two years before I was diagnosed with an advanced stage of the disease. As a result of this experience, I want to give back to MOCA so they can use the money raised from this event for more research."

MOCA was founded in 1999 by a small group of ovarian cancer survivors. The organization's mission is to fund research, raises awareness of the disease and provides support to women with ovarian cancer and their families. MOCA serves more than 600 ovarian cancer survivors and has awarded \$1.7 million for ovarian cancer research grants in Minnesota in the past seven years.

“MOCA is an organization whose membership includes strong and determined women with ovarian cancer,” explains MOCA Executive Director Kathleen Gavin. “This event is an example of how one such woman, Joan Cotton, is working to ensure that others will not have to go through what she has. The proceeds raised will help fund ovarian cancer research and programs to support women with the disease and their families.”

For more information, contact Joan Cotton at 218/969-1382 or MOCA, 612/822-0500 or visit: www.mnovarian.org.