FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mary's Place by the Sea Raises $240,000 at 15th Annual Walk-A-Thon and 8th Annual 5k Run to Provide Healing Services to Women with Cancer

OCEAN GROVE, N.J., Oct. 21, 2026 – Mary's Place by the Sea, a nonprofit offering wellness retreats and services for women with cancer, raised more than $240,000 at its 15th Annual Walk-A-Thon and 8th Annual 5K Run on Oct. 17, 2026. More than 1,500 people walked and ran in Mary's Place's largest fundraiser of the year to provide integrative services that help women with cancer heal mind, body and soul. (ACCESS PHOTOS HERE)

Founded in 2009, Mary's Place by the Sea has served more than 17,000 women with cancer. Guests come for complimentary overnight stays and day visits at its custom-built home in Ocean Grove, N.J., where they receive personalized services for the mind, body and soul such as oncology massage, reiki and counseling. Virtual services are also available before and after cancer treatment. All services, private accommodations and meals are provided at no cost to guests, which makes donations vital to the organization's work.

"Everyone showed up for this event to walk or run for a woman facing cancer," said **Executive Director and Founder Michele Gannon, Mary's Place by the Sea.** "Former guests were out there alongside neighbors and volunteers, and that says everything about what this community means to people. More women are being diagnosed with cancer each year, and more of them are finding their way to our door. Thanks to our donors, we can welcome women in and give them a place to rest, breathe and be with others who understand what they are going through."

The event took place on Ocean Pathway along the Atlantic shoreline, opening with a ceremony kicked off with "Rise Up" and the National Anthem sung by Catherine Villa, whose mother and sister are both survivors. A vendor market, food trucks and live music from the Those Guys band rounded out the festivities. More than 40 teams took part this year. In addition, Mary's Place by the Sea is grateful to nearly 50 sponsors and more than 45 vendors.

Every contribution supports the organization's mission to offer women with cancer a place of healing. Event fundraising remains open through Oct. 31, 2026. To make a donation, visit: https://runsignup.com/Race/NJ/OceanGrove/MarysPlacebytheSeaWalkathon.

About Mary's Place by the Sea
Mary's Place by the Sea provides wellness retreats for women with a cancer diagnosis. Guests of Mary's Place are provided with unconditional care during their time of need at NO COST. During day retreats and two-night retreats, guests experience integrative services, such as oncology massage, nutritional counseling, guided meditation, yoga, expressive writing, and much more. Mary's Place by the Sea operates out of a state-of-the-art, custom-built, ten-bedroom home, located at 22 Main Avenue in Ocean Grove, New Jersey. In addition to its in-person program, virtual services are also offered. Since its founding in 2009, Mary's Place has served over 17,000 women with cancer. Mary's Place by the Sea is a nonprofit 501(c) 3

organization. Learn more about Mary's Place by the Sea: https://youtu.be/JXTtz07ZoC0 and https://www.marysplacebythesea.org/. Join our community on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn.

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