

**Press Release: Public Health Thank You Day**  
**From: Greene County Public Health 719-3600**

**Date: Nov. 17, 2008**

As Thanksgiving approaches, Research!America and leading US public health organizations are asking Americans to give special thanks to their state and local public health heroes who protect the nation's health throughout the year. These everyday heroes include our health inspectors, environmental health officials, sanitation workers and nurses. November 24 marks the nation's fourth annual Public Health Thank You Day.

‘The Monday before Thanksgiving is an excellent opportunity to take some time to give thanks for the state and local public health professionals who safeguard our lives and our health every day by helping us prevent injuries, infectious disease and chronic illness’, said Mary Woolley, president and CEO of Research! America, a nonprofit advocacy alliance representing 125 million Americans.

Joining Research!America is Greene County Public Health Nursing Service, the American Public Health Association, Association of Schools of Public Health, Association of State and Territorial health officials, the National Association of County and City Health Officials and the National Alliance for Hispanic Health.

Public health professionals work tirelessly year-round to protect people from the ordinary and not so ordinary health threats, and we all owe a debt of gratitude to our governmental public health professionals at the local, state and federal level who devote their lives to

making it possible for us to live in a safer, healthier world, Ms. Woolley noted. “All too often we are unfamiliar with our public health professionals who devote their careers to keeping us healthy. These unsung heroes keep our air, food and water clean, our families safe and healthy through research, services and public policy actions such as seat belt and clean indoor air laws. During major disasters, public health officers are on the job making sure our health and safety is a top priority. After Hurricanes Katrina and Rita hit, they were testing drinking water and administering vaccinations. In the aftermath of 911, they were checking for contaminants and issued clean-up guidelines at the World Trade Center. Let’s thank these public health heroes on November 24 for the important work they do,” Ms. Woolley concluded.

For more information on Public Health Thank You day, please visit

[www.publichealththankyouday.org](http://www.publichealththankyouday.org).