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Giving Thanks: November 24 Honors Public Health Heroes

November 21, 2008 - As Thanksgiving approaches, Research!America and leading U.S. 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, contagious disease investigators, public health nurses, health educators and health department staff. 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.

Joining Research!America are the Coconino County Health Department (CCHD), the American Public Health Association, Association of Schools of Public Health, Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, National Association of County & 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," said Barbara Worgess, CCHD Director "Public Health Thank You Day is a day to show gratitude to our governmental public health professionals at the local, state and federal level who make it possible for us to live in a safer, healthier world."

About the Coconino County Health Department

The Coconino County Health Department provides an array of activities designed to promote and protect the health of the people of Coconino County. The CCHD educates the public about public health issues and provides medical care, education, and information to the community, through a variety of programs and services.

CCHD's mission is to prevent epidemics and the spread of disease, protect against environmental hazards, promote and encourage healthy behaviors, and to assure accessibility of health services.

About Research!America

Research!America is the nation's largest not-for-profit public education and advocacy alliance working to make research to improve health a higher national priority. Founded in 1989, it is supported by more than 500 member organizations, which represent more than 125 million Americans. For more information, visit www.researchamerica.org.

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