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**Giving Thanks: November 21st Honors
Escambia County Health Department Public Health Heroes
*Thanking Our Unsung Public Health Heroes***

Pensacola, FL – As Americans prepare to give thanks to family and friends this holiday, the Escambia County Health Department joins Research!America and leading U.S. public health organizations in praising federal, state and local "public health heroes" for improving our nation's health. These heroes, who include health inspectors, scientists, researchers and health investigators, will be honored for their dedication to public health on Nov. 21st, Public Health Thank You Day.

"Public health professionals go above and beyond to shield us from health hazards that all too often occur unexpectedly," said Dr. John Lanza, director of the Escambia County Health Department. "We appreciate the dedication, vigilance and professionalism of the 350-plus professionals and staff serving the community through their work with the Escambia County Health Department."

A new public opinion poll commissioned by Research!America shows 86 percent of Americans say it's important to increase funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and more than half say the government should play a role in prevention research to help Americans make behavioral changes to reduce their risk for chronic diseases.

This is a time to recognize public heroes for their invaluable work in all that they do to protect us from deadly and disabling diseases," said Mary Woolley, president and CEO of Research!America." The recent outbreak of foodborne illnesses underscores the importance of ramping up resources for federal agencies such as the CDC to investigate epidemics and protect the public from other health threats."

Joining Research!America are the Escambia County Health Department, the Campaign for Public Health Foundation, 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.

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