July 18, 2006

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CUMBERLAND COUNTY EMPLOYEES EARLY CONTRIBUTORS TO AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

For More Information, contact: Jim Long, American Heart Ass'n., (910) 323-9387

FAYETTEVILLE – On June 30, Cumberland County employees presented \$7,000 to the Director of the American Heart Association in Fayetteville, Jim Long. This contribution was made well in advance of the annual Heart Walk, scheduled for October 7, 2006, with the hope that it will provide a good start for the AHA fundraising that precedes the annual Heart Walk.

Cumberland County employees are generous contributors to many good causes in the community, to include the American Heart Association, the United Way, the Blood Donor Center at Cape Fear Valley Medical Center, and the annual food drive for needy families.

Since 1924, the American Heart Association has helped protect people of all ages and ethnicities from the ravages of heart disease and stroke. These diseases, the nation's No.1 and No. 3 killers, claim more than 910,000 American lives a year. The association invested nearly \$474 million in fiscal year 2004-2005 for research, professional and public education, advocacy, and community service programs so people across America can live stronger, longer lives.

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