



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR, CITY OF GREENVILLE

# *Proclamation*

**WHEREAS**, asthma is a long-term, inflammatory disease in which the airways of the lungs constrict, causing wheezing, breathlessness, chest tightness, and coughing; and

**WHEREAS**, asthma has reached epidemic proportions in the United States, affecting about 20 million people; and

**WHEREAS**, each year two million people are rushed to the emergency room and 5,000 people die from asthma; and

**WHEREAS**, asthma is one of the leading causes of childhood hospitalizations, long-term illness, and school absenteeism, accounting for nearly 15 million missed school days each year; and

**WHEREAS**, exposure to allergens and irritants such as dust mites, mold, household pests, pet dander, and secondhand smoke can bring on an asthma episode. Secondhand smoke worsens children's asthma in up to one million children; and

**WHEREAS**, there are simple steps people can take to reduce their exposure to environmental asthma triggers; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Greenville and the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency are encouraging Americans to identify and reduce their exposures to environmental triggers in homes and schools, and incorporate environmental controls into their asthma management plans;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Patricia C. Dunn, Mayor of the City of Greenville, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim the month of May, 2008 as

## **ASTHMA AWARENESS MONTH**

in Greenville and commend its observance to all citizens.

This 28th day of April, 2008.

Patricia C. Dunn, Mayor