

# great people



Jessi Duscher of Dillons store #96 in Wichita, Kan.

## Sharing Stories of Hope and Courage



Meet Maria Diaz, courtesy clerk at QFC store #126 in Lacey, Wash. She was diagnosed with breast cancer in February 2011.

Maria credits her attitude for helping her face this illness. "Knowing what was happening to my body – regarding the disease and treatments – was a must," she says. "I refused to allow cancer and treatment to overtake my life. I went further and focused all of my activities toward my healing, such as nutrition and modest physical activity, as well as rest."

While she was undergoing her treatment, Maria often walked her QFC store to get out of the house and build up her strength. "Associates at the store were very supportive of me during my treatments, so much so that I decided that I wanted to be a part of the QFC family and applied for a job," she says. "I love what I am doing because I can feel and see that I am making a difference in my customers' lives as well as my co-workers'." In fact, Maria's customers often tell her they love coming through her line because she cares.

Maria is just one of 48 associates who will share their stories on specially-marked packages of national and Kroger corporate brand products from Sept. 23 to Oct. 10 as part of our annual "Giving Hope a Hand" campaign. These items will be sold exclusively in our stores across the country.

Since this program began in 2006, more than \$20 million has been raised to assist breast cancer treatment, research and education, and to support other programs. All of the donations are given to local organizations working in the communities we call home. In 2012, with the help of key vendor partners, our company will raise \$3 million.

Our associates and their inspiring stores will also be featured on [sharingcourage.com](http://sharingcourage.com) – a special website that includes a Wall of Hope where visitors to the site can post messages of support or post their own stories of survival.

*QFC Courtesy Clerk Maria Diaz recently attended a photo shoot in New York City with 10 other associates as part of our company's 2012 "Giving Hope a Hand" campaign.*



## DON'T MISS THE HEALTH SCREENING DEADLINE

**Time is running out for associates and spouses/domestic partners who are eligible for the company's health care plan and haven't gotten a health screening and completed the Health Quotient (HQ) online. You and your spouse/domestic partner must get a health screening and take the HQ by Sept. 30 to have your choice of medical plans in 2013. If you and your spouse/domestic partner do not get a health screening and complete the HQ before this deadline, you will be automatically enrolled in HSA PPO 2, which has the highest deductible of all our plans. Visit the "Benefits & Discounts" section of [GreatPeople.me](http://GreatPeople.me) for more information.**