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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Giant Food Pilots Asteres ScriptCenter® Prescription Pickup Kiosk**

***\*Customers gain convenience and control to pick up prescription refills whenever the store is open\****

**RESTON, VA. – January 11, 2006** – Giant Food, one of the largest grocery chains on the East Coast, in keeping with its commitment to improve customer convenience, has just installed ScriptCenter® at their Reston, Virginia store located at 1450 North Point Village. Powered by the technology of Asteres®, ScriptCenter® is the first automated refill prescription pickup kiosk of its kind in Virginia, giving Giant customers greater convenience when picking up their refills.

Much like an ATM, ScriptCenter® is a high security kiosk that can be accessed whenever the store is open. Customers now have the convenience of picking up refills whenever they decide to shop and no longer have to worry about the difference in store and pharmacy hours. For questions when the pharmacy is closed, there are pharmacists on call ready to assist customers. During regular pharmacy hours, customers can always visit the pharmacy consultation area for assistance.

“Giant continues to implement innovative technologies to meet the diverse needs of our time-constrained customers,” said Giant’s Senior Vice President of Pharmacy John Fegan. “We believe the pilot in our Reston, Virginia store will show that ScriptCenter® gives us the ability to offer our customers a secure and convenient way to pickup refill prescriptions whenever the store is open, without the necessity of having to wait in line. In addition, the technology will enable our pharmacy staff to have more time to spend with customers who need consultation or additional help with their health care needs. ScriptCenter® takes convenience and safety to a whole new level.”

“Giant is a leader in the deployment of customer convenience technologies and we are thrilled at the rate their customers are adopting ScriptCenter®,” said Linda Pinney, Founder and Chief Business Officer, Asteres Inc. “At a time when mail order is on the rise, ScriptCenter® helps pharmacies provide customers the option for fast and convenient prescription pickup while maintaining a relationship with their trusted pharmacist.”

### **How It Works**

1. Customers complete one-time registration to use ScriptCenter®.
2. Customers order their refill prescriptions as usual.
3. The pharmacist refills the prescription as usual.

**-More-**

4. Instead of being placed behind the counter, each finished prescription is placed into a sealed, bar coded bag and loaded into ScriptCenter®.
5. Customers enter a Username and Password, select their prescriptions, swipe a payment card and sign the electronic signature pad.
6. ScriptCenter® locates, verifies and delivers the prescription into an electronic bin that opens for customer retrieval.

Note: New prescriptions require one-on-one consultation with a Giant pharmacist. If a ScriptCenter® user has a new prescription, ScriptCenter® will direct them to the pharmacy for pick up. ScriptCenter® users are encouraged to visit the Consultation window or call the pharmacy whenever they need assistance.

### **Safety First**

The ScriptCenter® employs several important safety measures before, during and after prescriptions are delivered.

1. The ScriptCenter® unit does not replace pharmacists. All prescriptions are filled in the Giant pharmacy by professional pharmacists, who then place completed prescriptions into the ScriptCenter®.
2. All completed prescriptions are labeled and bagged with a barcode that is unique to each prescription. When customers pick up their prescriptions from ScriptCenter®, the unit reads the barcode to ensure that the right medication is being delivered.
3. Once the prescription is delivered, ScriptCenter® instructs the customer to check each package as final verification.

### **ABOUT GIANT FOOD LLC**

*Giant Food LLC, headquartered in Landover, MD, operates 191 supermarkets in Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, and the District of Columbia, and employs more than 25,000 associates. Giant stores in Delaware operate under the Super G name. Included within the 191 stores are 162 full-service pharmacies. For more information on Giant Food, go to [www.giantfood.com](http://www.giantfood.com).*

### **ABOUT ASTERES**

*Asteres Inc. develops secure self-service kiosks for the storage and delivery of consumer products. Asteres' premier product is ScriptCenter®, the first prescription pick-up kiosk for retail pharmacy that allows consumers to pick up and pay for their prescriptions even when the pharmacy is closed. For more information on Asteres, go to [www.asteres.com](http://www.asteres.com).*

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