

R&B legend Charlie Wilson talks candidly about prostate cancer prevention

Written by Alaina L. Lewis



The quiet walls of an ordinarily empty classroom on a Saturday afternoon at Harvest Preparatory Academy were filled with an intimate message of courage and responsibility when they were blanketed with the presence of a timely messenger of Hope.

The Men of M.A.R.C.H. (Men Are Responsible for Cultivating Hope) and members of our diverse community were happy to welcome R&B singer Charlie Wilson and hear his Declaration of Awareness, prior to his musical performance Saturday, May 9 at Epic Night Club. He happily participated in a round table discussion designed to address a major issue seeking lives in our community; the growing rate of Prostate Cancer in African American males.

Wilson, a former member of the acclaimed musical ensemble The Gap Band, is continually hitting high notes with his solo career as an artist and has already garnered the number 1 spot on the R&B charts with the introduction of his latest album *Uncle Charlie*. But aside from singing his way back into the depths of our hearts with musical testimonies of love and redemption, his words off the stage amass the same significance and vulnerability yet reside on a different hill of heightened importance.

As you know, the world is “masking up” to steer clear of endemics like H1N1 (Swine Flu), but apart from the pandemonium of this contagious disease lays another epidemic seeking the lives of our brothers. Remember, not every potential life-threatening illness is one that's communicable or can be discerned through symptoms. Sometimes the necessity is not in covering up to prevent a problem, but rather by “unmasking” ourselves to discover a hidden one.

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