



## **The Princeton Club of Rochester**

**Charlise Harris**  
**Junior, Rochester Academy Charter School**

The spectrum for highlighting race relations and diversity is broad, and Charlise is demonstrating the ability to have a direct and personal impact across issues and platforms.

Charlise joined the youth development and teen pregnancy prevention program *In Control*, “ROC City’s Most Official Teen Program.” Her work helped to spread awareness about teen pregnancy and diseases, two important issues among underserved teens.

***“It was a way to learn about things that help prevent pregnancy and diseases. [But] we also learned about different historical leaders [of various races] who made a difference in our community.”***

The stage has served as another creative outlet for Charlise to explore and illuminate race-related issues. Charlise participated in a play that brought awareness to current challenges in our communities, such as black on black violence and police brutality against African Americans. This project, which she worked on during the summer of 2016, was part of the “Black Lives Matter” movement. Charlise was one of the recorders for the video, while also contributing her own ideas. When the video was shown, Charlise could see that viewers were clearly moved. She says it shed light on race relations in the community:

***“It brought up things that people would rather ignore, which is good. It brought awareness to the community and made a big impact. People were even protesting.”***

Mehriban Sirin, a Science teacher and Diversity Club Supervisor at Rochester Academy Charter School, says that Charlise sees the bigger picture in her efforts:

***“Charlise is a helpful, hardworking, smart, and organized student. She likes to talk about different cultures and would like to learn about them and experience them. She wants to improve the race relations in the world and contribute to create a world free of racism, where every person from different cultures has the social, economic, and political power to advance.”***

What a world that will be. Thank you for your passion and dedication, Charlise!