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**LUTHER VANDROSS' MOTHER  
MARY VANDROSS  
BECOMES SPOKESPERSON FOR DIABETES**

New York, NY – Although Mary Vandross has much to celebrate after her superstar son Luther won four Grammy Awards this weekend, she still has something serious on her mind. She has become a new spokesperson for the deadly disease diabetes and related brain injury, which has caused devastation in many generations of her family. Mary Vandross lost her husband at age 38 when he slipped into a diabetic coma and never recovered. Not only this, her mother, oldest son, daughter and then later her grandson also died at the hands of the disease. And now diabetes is cited as a leading cause of Luther Vandross' massive stroke from which he is still recovering. The Public Service Announcement featuring Mary Vandross was shot for the Charles Ray III Diabetes Association who will be distributing it nationally.

“Seeing Luther struck down by a stroke caused largely by diabetes was the last straw for me. I knew I could stay silent no more about this disease that has literally stolen away members of my family. No one can understand the sadness I feel,” comments Mary Vandross. “That’s why I’m urging people to take diabetes very seriously and to go get tested. I hope my personal messages in this public service announcement for the Charles Ray III Diabetes Association make an impact and help save some precious lives.”

Charles Ray III, President and CEO of The Charles Ray III Diabetes Association comments, "I am so grateful and excited to have Mrs. Mary Vandross featured in a National PSA for The Charles Ray III Diabetes Association. This will take us to the next level in providing people with diabetes the encouragement, support, and testing supplies they need to monitor this disease."

The Charles Ray II Diabetes Association is a non-profit organization founded by 42 year old Charles Ray III who was diagnosed with diabetes at age 17. The main goal of the association is to encourage people with diabetes to take control of their health by providing medical devices and supplies to those unable to afford the cost. They provide this service through donations from the general public and one major fund raiser a year (The Charles Ray III Golf Classic). More information can be found at: [www.charlesray.g12.com](http://www.charlesray.g12.com).

This has been a year of extreme highs and extreme lows for superstar Luther Vandross. On the eve of the release of his latest album Dance With My Father, Luther suffered a life-threatening stroke last April. His tragedy sparked a major outpouring from fellow artists and fans who rushed to host prayer vigils, tributes and celebrations of Luther's unparalleled career. The national outpouring propelled Dance With My Father to a startling #1 debut on the Billboard Top 200 Album chart. To date, the album has sold almost 2 million copies in the U.S. making it Luther's fastest selling album. And this weekend, Dance With My Father earned Luther Vandross four Grammy Awards including the coveted “Song of the Year.”