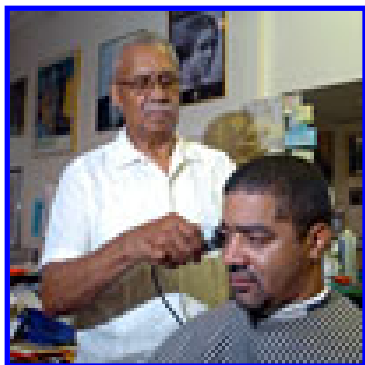

Barber of the Year



Willie E. Brennon
(posthumous)

Brennon's Barbershop
307 W Palisade Ave
Englewood, NJ 07631

Willie E. Brennon, owner of Brennon's Barbershop in Englewood, NJ was known by many in the community. He had been a barber since 1962, with customers coming from all over Bergen County. He had been a father, mentor and go-to-person for young black men looking for a trim and the right answers.

In September 2007, he became something else, a community lay health educator. In searching for barbers to participate in the "Get the Buzz" Barbershop Initiative from the Bergen County Cancer Coalition and Bergen County CEED Program, Mr. Brennon was highly recommended. He quickly welcomed the idea and opened his shop in the most accommodating manner.

His leadership role was exemplified through his commitment in time, energy, personal resources and staff support that brought services to the medically underserved community in Bergen County, primarily men of color. These efforts resulted in a half-page article in The Record, the largest newspaper in Bergen County, bringing further attention, awareness and recognition to these important issues.

On that September night in Brennon's Barbershop, approximately 25 men took part in an educational presentation on prostate cancer and smoking cessation. The educational presentation which featured the DVD titled "Lets Tackle Prostate Cancer Together" was followed by a personal story from survivor, Rev. Gregory Jackson, senior pastor of the Mount Olive Baptist Church in Hackensack. It quickly became apparent from the dialogue that followed that the barbershop was the ideal location. Countless men shared their experiences and encouraged other men to go for a prostate cancer screening. Proof that the program made a difference was evident when one of the barbers from the shop participated in a Bergen County CEED prostate cancer screening two weeks later.

Mr. Brennon passed away in August 2008, but not before being honored by many. The Urban League for Bergen County chose him as their Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient in 2006. He lived a life of service and although there will be no September night 2008, it is undeniable that the difference he made will affect generations to come.

The Prostate Net

Virgil H. Simons founded the Prostate Net in 1996 to help prostate cancer patients and their families make informed treatment decisions. Furthermore, Mr. Simons wanted to educate black men, who bear a much greater risk for prostate cancer, both in regard to incidence and mortality. In response to these two crucial needs, The Prostate Net came into existence.



<http://www.prostate-online.com>

BERGEN COUNTY HEALTH SERVICES

CEED
Program

Cancer Education & Early Detection Program



COUNTY OF BERGEN

Dennis McNerney
County Executive

Board of Chosen Freeholders

James M. Carroll, *Chairman*

Julie O'Brien, *Vice Chairwoman*

Elizabeth Calabrese

David L. Ganz

Bernadette P. McPherson

Tomas J. Padilla

Vernon C. Walton

The Prostate Net
In the Know Award 2008

Barber of the Year

Presented by:

Kenese Robinson, BS, CHES
Coordinator,
Bergen County Cancer Coalition

Outreach Coordinator,
Cancer Education and Early
Detection (CEED)

Bergen County Department of
Health Services

Virgil Simons
Founder & President,
CEO & CFO
The Prostate Net