The American Red Cross, Greater Buffalo Chapter began providing HIV/AIDS prevention education and consumer services in the 1980’s; and we remain committed to providing resources that keep people healthy and safe in their homes and in their communities.

**Women’s HIV/AIDS Prevention & Care Initiative**

The Women’s HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care Initiative (WCPI) is a program designed to address the increasing rates of HIV infection in women of color. The program provides women who are high risk of HIV infection and women who are living with HIV/AIDS prevention education, one on one support, and transportation to HIV testing and counseling, HIV/AIDS medical treatment, gynecological care, sexually transmitted disease screening and other health related services.

In addition, the program provides HIV/AIDS prevention education programming on topics such as: HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted infections, communication skills, relationships, substance use and condom use. The program is also proud to offer the SISTA Project (Sisters Informing Sisters About Topics on AIDS) program. This seven session HIV/AIDS educational intervention is recommended by the Centers for Disease Control. The curriculum utilizes gender and ethnic pride as the foundation for HIV prevention and condom use for African American women.

**Ryan White Transportation Program**

The Ryan White Transportation Program (RWTP) provides transportation assistance for all qualifying individual who are living with HIV/AIDS in Erie, Niagara, Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Orleans, Allegany, and Genesee counties for medical appointments. The program supplements Medicaid and other transportation programs by providing services on a non-emergency basis; assistance is provided in the form of Metro tokens, bus passes, gas cards, or in special cases, door to door van/taxicab service. The type of assistance rendered is determined on an individual basis. Transportation can be used for such services as: Doctors appointments (medical, dentist, specialist and eye) and HIV/AIDS care related services such as: counseling, nutritional services, support groups, and permanency planning.

**Housing Opportunity for Persons with AIDS**

The Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) program provides short-term rental, mortgage and utility assistance to people living with HIV/AIDS who are at risk of homelessness due to rental/ mortgage arrears or at risk of utility shut off. The program also assists with first months rent/ security deposit for people living with HIV/AIDS who are homeless or living in hazardous /health challenging living conditions. The program is available to all qualifying individuals living in Erie and Niagara County.

**New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute Regional Training Center**

The American Red Cross, Greater Buffalo Chapter is the NYSDOHAI Regional Training Center. Over 45 trainings are offered; the topics support the delivery of accurate HIV/AIDS information and services within Western New York. All trainings are free. Physicians, nurses, health and human service providers, and community members are encouraged to attend. Training topics include: HIV/AIDS, Domestic Violence, Case Management, Sexually Transmitted Disease, Domestic Violence in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Communities, HIV Treatment Update/ Adherence, HIV Confidentiality Law, Mental Health, and HIV Test Counseling. All participants receive a certificate of attendance at the competition of the training. Many trainings are CME, CEU, OASAS, PSSNY, and CASAC accredited. See our brochure for details. Go to [www.buffaloredcross.org](http://www.buffaloredcross.org) or [www.health.state.ny.us/diseases/aids/training](http://www.health.state.ny.us/diseases/aids/training) for a training calendar.

**All program services are free.** Please visit our website at [www.buffaloredcross.org](http://www.buffaloredcross.org) or contact Monica Brown at 716-878-2394 or at [Brownmon@usa.redcross.org](mailto:Brownmon@usa.redcross.org) for additional information on programs, to schedule a presentation, register for training or to schedule an appointment for HIV Testing/ Sexually Transmitted Infection screening.