

HELP WITH TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING

Niagara County residents living with HIV/AIDS can take advantage of two important programs offered by the Greater Buffalo Chapter of the American Red Cross. One provides transportation assistance, which can be critical for people who must travel to Buffalo or Rochester for care. The other provides temporary assistance with rent, mortgage or utility payments. Both are free.

The **Ryan White Transportation Program** offers gasoline debit cards, Metro tokens, bus passes – and in special cases, door-to-door rides by taxi or van so people can get to physicians, clinics, dentists and HIV-related services such as support groups, counseling sessions and nutritional services. Exactly which type of assistance a person will qualify for depends on individual circumstances. Contact Monica Brown at 878-2394.

The **Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS Program** aims to prevent people living with HIV/AIDS from becoming homeless. It will pay rent, mortgage and utilities on a short-term basis for people who are falling behind on their bills. It also will pay a security deposit and first-month's rent for people who have to move to more secure or accommodating housing and lack the funds to do so. To apply, call the Red Cross at 878-2340 for an application.