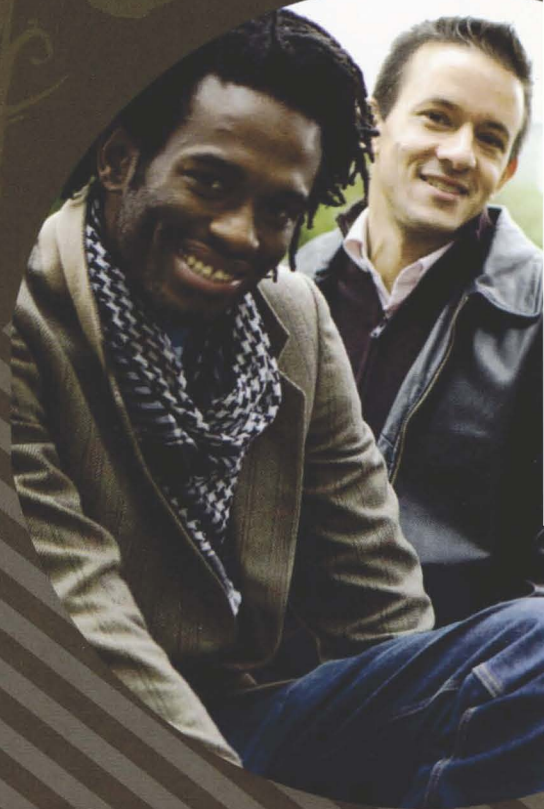


MOCHA CENTER @

rochester & buffalo



ORIGINS...

Since our inception in 1993, when the MOCHA Center was founded as the Men of Color Health Awareness Project, which specifically addressed HIV/AIDS health concerns that were affecting gay men, we have further grown into a center of information, services, advocacy and much more. We have also significantly increased the number of people we serve by including more young people and women through our expanded programming.

At the Center, we pride ourselves on our ability to effectively respond to the emerging needs of our communities through dynamic programming. All of our services are conducted in a culturally sensitive manner that is both confidential and non-judgmental. Services are provided in a manner that emphasizes wellness, individual responsibility and increased awareness of healthy behaviors and support of individuals who take steps to improve their own health.

THE HEART OF THE MATTER...

The MOCHA Center empowers people to live rich, healthy lives and to discover the strength found in a community through a wide variety of programs, services and activities. These activities include an array of comprehensive adult and youth counseling and social services programs. These programs are informed by our four focus areas that allow us to offer a comprehensive, integrated approach to carrying out our mission.

ON A MISSION...

The MOCHA Center is dedicated to improving health and wellness in communities of color through intervention and service with an emphasis on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) programming.



Heart

PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Specialized Support Groups & Individualized Counseling

HIV/STD PREVENTION

Intensive outreach to the LGBT people of color community with emphasis on individuals at-risk for exposure to HIV/STD. Services include assessing risk and programmatic needs, providing HIV education and risk reduction counseling, as well as testing.

FOOD PANTRY

MOCHA operates a Food Pantry program in partnership with AIDS Family Services. The pantry provides nutritional assistance to people living with HIV/AIDS, many of whom are on limited incomes and/or are unable to work. Proper nutrition and adequate caloric intake are all absolutely essential to the health and well being of persons living with HIV/AIDS. Clients receiving this service are more able meet their basic dietary needs and are able to choose from a menu that allows them to select food items that they prefer, accommodating various dietary preferences, needs and restrictions. Food Pantry staff provides guidance to clients in selecting foods that will create healthy, appealing meals. Personal care items, clothing and linens are provided on a limited basis. Infant formula, baby food, and diapers are also available to HIV positive mothers and their children in need.



MOCHA ANTI-VIOLENCE PROJECT (MAP)

MAP provides a variety of services related to community violence (those who experience hate crimes) and intimate partner violence (those who experience abuse from a current or former lover, date or hook-up), including safety planning, support services, referrals to ancillary services (victims' assistance, shelter, court advocacy, etc.) and, where appropriate, support groups, and individual counseling.

MANY MEN, MANY VOICES

A six session, group level, STD/HIV intervention program that was specifically developed for gay men of color. Through exercises and small group discussions, participants develop skills that help them change their behaviors and thereby reduce their risk of acquiring STDs and HIV.

MPOWERMENT PROJECT

A community-based program that is for bisexual, lesbian, gay, and transgender youth ages 13-24. MPowerment is an evidence-based intervention designed to provide a safe space, build a community, reduce HIV infection rates, and assist youth in discovering and reaching their goals.

PATHWAYS TO CARE

Pathways to CARE helps people who are living with HIV get medications, as well as medical and home care through the New York State AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP). It pays for an individual's medical expenses when they are awaiting Medicaid approval, are unable to obtain public assistance for health care costs, or have limited private health insurance. The ultimate goal is to help people living with HIV to lead healthier lives.

HEALTH & WELLNESS *(direct service provision)*

Combines holistic care & evidenced-based public health strategies to reduce psycho-social medical & behavioral determinants of poor health & wellness outcomes. Achieved through integrated approaches at the individual, group, and community levels.

EDUCATION & CAPACITY BUILDING

We draw on our experience working with the community, clients, and providers alike. We assess needs/provide awareness through trainings, meetings, and events. We offer technical assistance to service providers, health departments and community groups.



YOU & US

The MOCHA Center seeks volunteers to work in a variety of areas. Please call our offices to learn more about current volunteer opportunities.

NON-PROFIT STATUS

As a nonprofit organization with a 501(c)(3) status, MOCHA Center receives funding from a number of sources including government agencies, foundations, corporations, small businesses and individual donors.

For more information on our non-profit status, please contact our office at 716.852.1142.

CONFIDENTIALITY

All records at the MOCHA Center are strictly confidential. A record release with client's signature is required before any information can be released to anyone, including parents or guardians. All clients, even those under the age of 18, receive the same confidential care.

THEATRE AIDS PREVENTION (TAP) PROGRAM

TAP is a group and community-level intervention program which combines HIV/STD education with performing art (spoken word pieces, songs, poetry, skits, etc.); TAP uses "risk stories" drawn from a trained cast about their experiences in HIV and STD risk situations (and how they handle those risks) for performance to an audience within the community.

COMMUNITY DROP-IN CENTER & COMPUTER LAB

The MOCHA Community Drop-In Centers serve as the hub, some might say the heart, of the diverse bisexual, lesbian, gay, transgender and straight communities in Rochester and Buffalo, New York. The Centers provide a safe, nurturing environment that helps even the most vulnerable of our community to find their voice, their confidence, and their network of loving care to prepare for a future where they will contribute to a society that both welcomes them as well as embraces them.

The Drop-In Centers provide a combination of both support networks and programming to meet the cultural, emotional, social, health and recreational needs of the LGBT people of color and also their friends. Our current services include a computer lab, discussion groups; safer sex education groups; professional development and job readiness workshops; crisis counseling; anti-violence training and peer education training programs.



You & Us

ADVOCACY & COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION

Works to affect systems change incrementally and over time; by developing and implementing an advocacy agenda that increases access to quality health care, improves the coordination of services to people of color and that mobilizes community

RESEARCH & EVALUATION

MOCHA bridges the gap between theory and practice through the use of community-based participatory research. Community members will inform all aspects of the research process (design, implementation, evaluation and replication).

CONTACT

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