



## **RISING LEADERS CLASS of 2009 INFORMATION**

### **THE PARTICIPANTS**

Leadership Buffalo's Rising Leaders program brings together up-and-coming 21st century leaders, ages 22 - 35, from diverse backgrounds and perspectives in order to increase their ability to be effective agents of change. By developing an in-depth knowledge of the critical issues facing Western New York, by understanding and practicing effective collaborative leadership, by sharing hands-on experiences, and by networking with other leaders, Rising Leaders class members will be able to become more influential in important decisions facing the region.

Participants will gain:

- individual and interpersonal leadership skills
- experience with conflict resolution and negotiation
- knowledge of strategies for adaptive/systemic change
- an understanding of the complexities of the critical issues facing WNY
- exposure to many of the individuals and organizations currently addressing those challenges
- the opportunity to meet, engage and develop long-standing relationships with other emerging leaders from broad ethnic, geographic, socio-economic, racial, religious, and professional backgrounds
- a network of community leaders including over 900 members of Leadership Buffalo

### **THE SCHEDULE**

Leadership Buffalo's Rising Leaders program is unlike any other in the Buffalo Niagara region. Participants should expect a powerful experience, one that will develop many of the skills and abilities necessary to successfully lead. The program is presented in a series of monthly sessions (mornings, evenings or all day) plus one two-day, overnight retreat. Dates for the 2009 sessions are:

- Opening Retreat = all day Friday, January 23 - all day Saturday, January 24 (out of town)
- Morning Sessions (generally 8:00 am - 1:00 pm) = March 11 (all day), April 15, May 12 (8 - 2 pm), June 10, July 22, August 6 (all day), September 23 (afternoon), and October 21
- Community Service – August 19 (subject to change) - United Way Day of Caring
- Evening Sessions (generally 5:30 pm - 9:00 pm) = February 25, March 25, April 29, May 27, June 24, September 9, October 7 and November 4

• **PLEASE CHECK YOUR PERSONAL CALENDARS FOR YOUR AVAILABILITY ON THESE DATES**

The challenge, concept, and practice of 21st century leadership will be explored along with such key topics as economic development, criminal justice, healthcare, human services, education, race relations, regionalism and local governance, Buffalo's heritage, and the arts.

Participants will be expected to do monthly homework assignments, including some experiential assignments that will be scheduled at a time other than the day or evening sessions listed above.

Attendance at the entire Opening Retreat is **mandatory** for participation in the Rising Leaders program. Class members are expected to attend all day/evening sessions. Two absences will be allowed for emergencies only. Consistent absences will result in dismissal from the program.

## **CLASS SHEET CONT'D**

### **FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS**

Upon acceptance into the program, each participant must pay **\$130** - Leadership Buffalo's annual membership dues. The tuition for Leadership Buffalo's Rising Leaders program is an additional **\$2,400**. Tuition may be paid in installments. Arrangements for installment payments must be made with the Leadership Buffalo Executive Director prior to the Opening Retreat. Limited scholarship assistance is available to ensure that all qualified candidates are able to participate in the Rising Leaders class. Scholarship awards are based on a candidate's demonstrated financial need and funding available to Leadership Buffalo. Dues and tuition are non-refundable.

### **SELECTION CRITERIA**

Individuals, ages 22 - 35 who have demonstrated leadership within their volunteer or career activities and/or have the interest and potential to pursue leadership roles in the Buffalo Niagara community are encouraged to apply. Candidates should be able to show their potential and desire to lead through personal commitment or leadership activities in high school, college, current volunteer roles, or career positions. Individuals must be willing to devote the necessary time to being an active member of the Rising Leaders class. Those candidates not selected for the 2009 class are encouraged to reapply.

### **GRADUATES of RISING LEADERS**

Graduates of Leadership Buffalo's Rising Leaders will be considered full members of the Leadership Buffalo organization and, upon payment of annual dues, will be eligible for continuing educational, networking and social opportunities with over 900 members of Leadership Buffalo.

### **APPLICATION PROCESS**

Applications for LB's Rising Leaders program are available after August 15th at the Leadership Buffalo office (849-2626, ext. 17, or lb@leadershipbuffalo.org). Applications may also be secured after August 15th through the Leadership Buffalo web page at [www.leadershipbuffalo.org](http://www.leadershipbuffalo.org).

Candidates must provide two references with their application (see enclosed forms), and obtain signatures from their supervisor showing permission for time away from work and financial sponsors showing the parties that are responsible for paying all tuition not covered by scholarship assistance.

**Faxed, incomplete or late applications will not be considered for review.**

The application, two references, and the \$25.00 non-refundable processing fee must be received at the Leadership Buffalo office no later than 5:00 pm on Thursday, October 16, 2008.