

## Four Major Community Advocate Groups Unite



Buffalo Rising October 22, 2009

Tonight at 7PM, at St. Martin de Porres Roman Catholic Church on Buffalo's East Side, more than 600 activists and community members from Erie and Niagara Counties will unite in a public meeting held by VOICE-Buffalo, Niagara Organizing Alliance for Hope (NOAH), People United for Sustainable Housing (PUSH), and the newly formed Western New York Coalition for Regional Economic Revitalization (WNYCRER).

These four prominent community organizations will join forces to address issues of key importance to the revitalization of Western New York. In addition, various public officials, called to attendance, will make firm commitments to do the following:

- **Improve public transportation**
- **Secure funding for green jobs and housing**
- **Support local hiring and job creation**

"This is the first time that all of these groups have come together, in unity, to present their issues for improvement," said Duane Diggs and Cathy Lee, co-chairs of the meeting. "It's an exciting time for all those concerned about the future of Erie and Niagara counties."

The organizations, each working toward their own goals, are joining forces around their shared purpose of a healthier and more sustainable region.

WNYCRER, is coalition made up of VOICE, NOAH and a coalition of business and labor groups, and public officials. An outgrowth of the May Economic Summit, the coalition is looking to collaboratively address the many common concerns of Erie and Niagara counties, so the entire region can move forward to create better jobs and better places for all residents.

PUSH Buffalo recently notched a huge win in the fight for better jobs and homes for all residents of the state, by helping pass the Green Jobs/Green NY Act of 2009. This budget-neutral law puts billions of dollars in the system to help New Yorkers gear up for the green economy, reduce their energy costs, and change the face of neighborhoods across the state.