



## Healthy Neighborhood Initiative 5<sup>th</sup> Ward

In 2002, the Charities initiated the 5<sup>th</sup> Ward Healthy Neighborhood Initiative (HNI) for a community recognized as one of the oldest and one of the most economically depressed in the city. The goal was to have the research and the study be a catalyst for participatory efforts to create a healthier, more sustainable community.

Specifically, the community identified child primary care and mental health as top priorities for its young children in an early 2002 survey. Specific outcomes included a mobile medical van operated by Communities in the Schools. President Bush's Compassion Capital Faith & Health Grant matched SLEHC investment in this mobile health program. This project's initial year focused on immunizations and health education at participating 5th Ward elementary schools and churches. Currently, CIS provides mental health services to children in the community.

In an effort to address primary, dental, and mental health needs in a more sustainable way, the community formed a 501(c) 3 entitled the Northeast Community Health Center (NCHC) in 2003 to provide primary health care, dental and mental health services, substance abuse and other supplemental services through a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) designation. In 2006, the clinic became a satellite of Legacy Community Health Services, operating as Lyons Avenue Health Center.