



Healthy Neighborhood Initiative East Austin

In November of 2004, the Charities was invited by St. James Episcopal Church to begin an exploratory study in an East Austin neighborhood with a distinct revenue and language disparity with the city. Within the neighborhood, 65 percent speaking a language other than English at home and 15.8 percent below the Federal Poverty Level, nearly twice the city numbers. For the Charities, this was an excellent opportunity to extend its mission to Travis County, and apply its Healthy Neighborhood Initiative (HNI) model in a different context.

Typically, when the Charities initiates a Community-based Participatory Research study, the findings correlate to the needs of the community, with health resources a significant part of the discussion. In the case of East Austin, the critical need was changing the demographic perception of the community.