



## Healthy Neighborhood Initiative East End Children's Collaborative

In 1999, the Charities began its first Healthy Neighborhood Initiative, in Houston's East End. The study area included the neighborhoods of Magnolia Park, Second Ward and Eastwood/Lawndale. Within these communities, 69% live in poverty, 51% have less than a high school education (almost twice Houston's percentage), 63% of births are from mothers without a high school education, and the infant mortality rate is higher than the City's. Recognizing the major health and social needs in the communities, the Charities convened a 32-member advisory committee from within the community. They identified the best mix of research methods, employing house-to-house surveys, participatory groups, key informant interviews and a community-based collaborative to assess needs.

The East End Healthy Children's Collaborative, comprised of nine community service providers focused on improving the lives of children, was the Charities' first and longest lasting collaborative. It was also the first funding collaborative, in which area funders, such as the Cullen Trust for Health Care, Bank of American and Christus, came together to leverage over \$5M in community funding. Outcomes include a Federally Qualified Health Center, El Centro de Corazon; an immunization initiative; and the group won a grant from the Texas Department of Health to support the enrollment of over 15,000 children in the Children's Health Insurance Program.