



The St. Mary's University Neighborhood Revitalization Project was established in 2007 in response to a call-to-action by University president Charles L. Cotrell, Ph.D., for the University to be more actively involved in community outreach, development and improvement, and to collaborate with our neighbors to revitalize and beautify the areas surrounding the University. The project's 50-plus members make up the Task Force, and together with neighbors and business proprietors, they focus on revitalizing commercial transformation, housing rehabilitation, education, and infrastructure and quality of life improvements.

With the receipt of the Hispanic Serving Institutions Assisting Communities (HSIAC) Grant in 2008, the revitalization project was able to hire a director and assistant director to staff the effort to revitalize the now coined St. Mary's Gateway District. The grant also facilitated the formation of the St. Mary's University Neighborhood Revitalization Center, located on the St. Mary's campus and the hiring of an affordable housing counselor through a partnership with San Antonio Alternative Housing Corporation, a social services caseworker and support staff. With the staff in place, the project was able to expand its focus with the hiring of Neighborhood Commercial Revitalization (NCR) program manager, once obtaining the NCR partnership status through the City of San Antonio, to focus on the commercial revitalization of the area. Through a concerted effort that involves every department at the University, multiple area neighborhood associations, strong partnerships with both non-profit and governmental institutions and a committed Task Force, the St. Mary's Revitalization Project has been able to make significant strides towards helping to revitalize the surrounding community.

In addition to the initial \$596,794 HSIAC grant, the project has been able to leverage \$370,000 from the City of San Antonio for the NCR staff position and program, \$15,000 from St. Mary's Alumni Association, \$10,000 from Citi Foundation and \$3,000 from Wells Fargo. In addition to these funds, the project has seen 48 loans from ACCION to businesses in the area, over \$500,000 in private commercial investment with multiple million dollar projects recently initiated or slated to begin, about \$150,000 in new single-family home construction, and over \$40,000 in the creation of two new pocket parks in the area. The City of San Antonio has similarly made multi-million dollar investments in the area's infrastructure that have rebuilt or improved entire portions of the commercial and residential areas of the Gateway District. Construction is also about to begin on a new multi-family development in the area. Additionally, St. Mary's recently broke ground on its twelve million dollar athletics complex designed to update existing facilities that is widely used by the neighborhood residents and will bring more community events to campus.