

The Spartanburg County Foundation

Northside Initiative

Spartanburg, SC

Challenge

The Northside was once a thriving mill community. When Spartan Mills closed, many left the neighborhood resulting in vacant housing stock, lack of economic opportunity, and increased crime.

Innovation

In 2008, Virginia-based Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine announced it would locate its Carolinas Campus at the former Spartan Mills site, providing a catalyst and initial private investment for a larger neighborhood redevelopment. The Northside Development Group was formed in 2011 to spearhead these revitalization efforts. The Northside Development Group developed partnerships with public and private individuals and institutions representing neighborhood residents, governmental agencies, local business, health care, education, nonprofit, and philanthropic sectors.

Overview

The Northside Initiative is an effort to fundamentally transform a neighborhood of approximately 400 acres into a community of choice, where current residents choose to stay and new people choose to move. To achieve a neighborhood of choice, the Northside Development Group and its partners are working to create a vibrant cradle to career education pipeline, affordable housing options, and a stable, safe, and healthy environment that supports all stages of life through comprehensive social and community services. The early successes have ignited a new sense of community pride. This initiative is also gaining national recognition. In 2012, the Northside was named the 8th Purpose Built Community, and is currently 1 of 16 communities throughout the United States with this recognition.

PUBLIC-SECTOR PARTNERS

Over a dozen public sector partners, including local government, education, health, and workforce partners

OTHER PARTNERS

Many partners, including foundations, nonprofits, and community groups

CONTACT INFORMATION

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