



Two women in Back of the Yards neighborhood, 1904.

## **Where did the Stockyard Workers Live?**

Many immigrants built and lived in an area next to the stockyards. The neighborhood was called Back of the Yards. People that lived there were very poor because the meatpacking jobs paid little money. The houses and apartments were crowded. When people got sick, illness spread to many other people.

The immigrants in Back of the Yard worked to make their neighborhood better. Even some people that did not live in the Back of the Yards worked to help make that neighborhood better. Workers and their families got together to dance and visit. They got together to ask the city to pave their streets. They got together to close the garbage dumps next to their homes. And they got together in labor unions to ask the meatpacking owners to pay better wages.

Over many years and with a lot of work, the people that lived in Back of the Yards did make their neighborhood a better place to live.