

Living With Asthma



Photo by Amir Hosseini on Unsplash.

Blog for Air Justice



Photo by Sahej Brar on Unsplash.

Asthma runs in the family for many West Louisville residents, Air Justice sat down with one mother of two who grew up in the Shively area and spoke about her family's experience dealing with health issues exacerbated by living in an area with a significant amount of air pollutants.

“It can go from a simple breathing treatment to a seven day hospital stay, like that.”



Photo by Maxim Tolchinskiy on Unsplash.

Symptoms can be triggered by a variety of particles in the air, as well as the odors they emit throughout the community. In our interview, she discussed her son who frequently would have asthma attacks caused by the strong, chemical odor in the air.

Asthma tends to be more common in urban areas, due to air quality and a greater variety of potential allergens, something families in West Louisville have learned in a manner which can be urgent, upsetting, and difficult when these attacks lead to ER visits or extended stays in a hospital.

For a mother who understands that it is in the nature of children to play outside, explore, and to be curious, it can be scary to know that your child's safety is in peril from something as inescapable as the air itself. But this is the reality for many families impacted by the output of the chemical facilities in their neighborhoods.



Photo by Joydeep Sensarma on Unsplash.

“...You can't afford to relocate. It's sad, but we can't move anywhere. Even if it's based off of your child's health, you can't.”

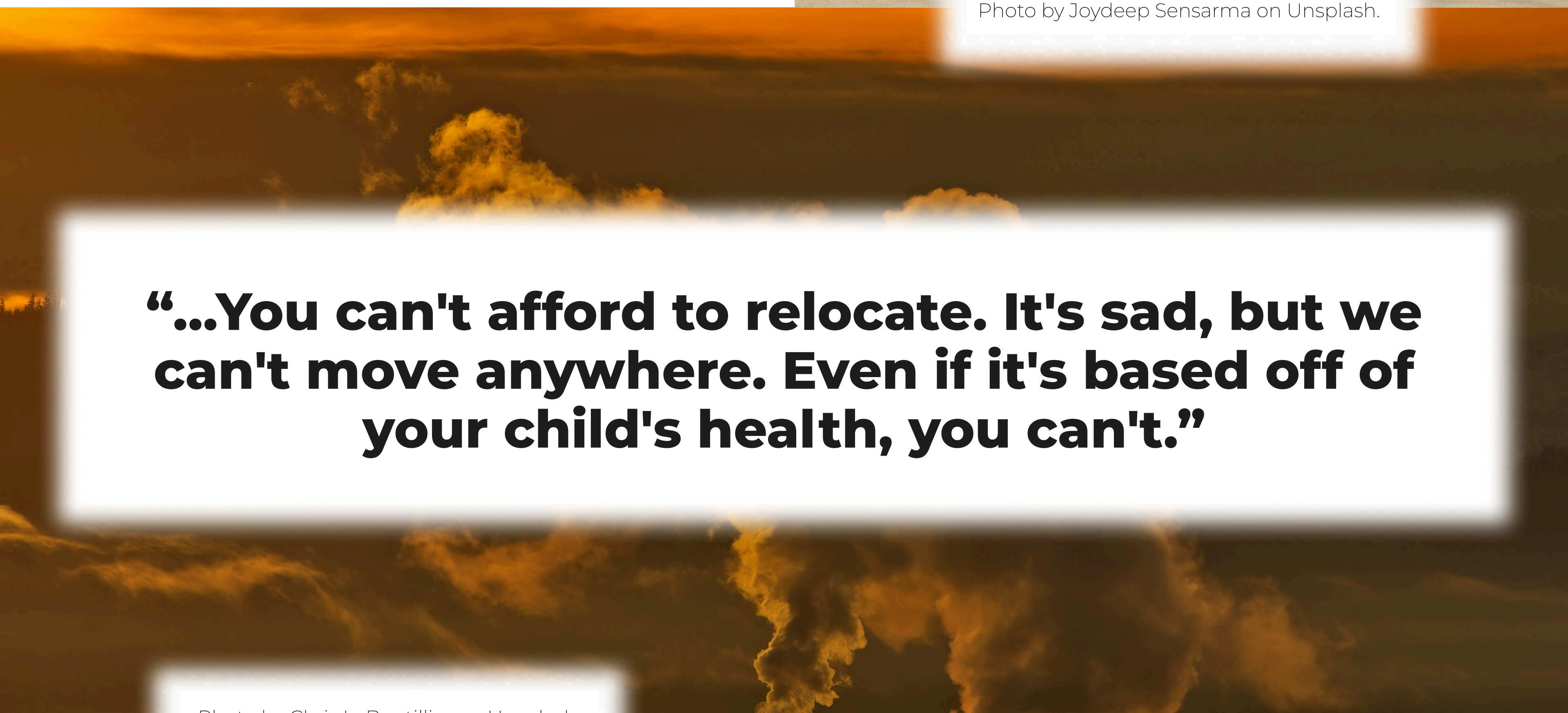


Photo by Chris LeBoutillier on Unsplash.

When your own child's health is on the line, moving away from the cause of these problems seems like an obvious decision. But it is not easy when the district where these pollutants are at their worst also ranks among one of the least economically developed, with many residents living paycheck to paycheck and not in a situation where they could afford to move away.

Even then, we should consider whether it should have ever gotten to the point where families are desperate to move in the first place. These are their homes, where they were raised and where they raised their children. The residents and activists who are concerned about the chemicals in their air should not have to abandon the lives they've created in West Louisville because the city cannot work with them to prioritize their health over the interests of a few powerful corporations.

Watch the video below to see her story, and reach out to the Air Justice team today to share your own.



Watch the video [here](#).