Time and time again, FOX13 has shown you stories of how poor living conditions have caused health issues.

Now, Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital is offering a way to help families in these situations. It’s a new program called Children’s Health Law Directive, or Memphis CHiLD, that partners with the University of Memphis law school as well as Memphis Area Legal Services. It provides Le Bonheur patient families with legal help on-site from University of Memphis law students.

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In 2012, more than 3,000 kids went to Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital’s Emergency Department for asthma complications. Parents like Ibinka Neilly Brittman and Wendy Thompson know this too well from experiences with their own children.

“I was actually one of those parents who lived in a home that was mold infested,” Brittman, who is part of the Champs parent advisory board, told FOX13.

“She was having issues,” Thompson said of her own daughter’s experience. “I thought I was doing everything right. She ended up being put in the hospital; they sent her to ICU.”

These two moms are a part of Le Bonheur’s CHAMPS program, helping asthma students; they played a key role in helping the team develop Memphis CHiLD.

The program is launching with a focus on helping children affected by asthma triggered by home conditions like mold.

“That is an asthma trigger, so these kids come to the ER over and over again with asthma exacerbations,” Dr. Lauren Mutrie told FOX13. “The trigger is still at home. They will not get better until they eliminate the mold.”

According to Le Bonheur’s CHAMP program, prior to families enrolling in the program, an average of 20% of children visited the ED because of asthma at least once every three months. The hospital credits this initiative for reducing the number of children visiting their ED once a quarter by 35%.

**CHAMPS is hoping Memphis CHiLD will help reduce the numbers even more.**

Brittman and Thompson said legal teams from Le Bonheur guided them to conduct home mold tests and send letters to their landlords.

“She didn’t respond in the way you would think someone would be concerned about their tenant, and so they were able to actually help me get out of my lease and move somewhere else,” Brittman said.

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It is one example of the services Memphis CHiLD will provide.

“This law school and doctors and lawyers all took the opportunity to understand where we were coming from as parents and not being one sided and saying ‘yeah okay we hear you,’ but they actually listened and now they’re putting force behind what we asked of them,” Brittman said.

The cases of asthma from home and apartment conditions are just the first phase of the project; Memphis CHiLD will expand into other social issues that impact health in the near future.

The program is only available for Le Bonheur patients and families on a referral basis.