

The Lamp Post

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\$1 MILLION PLOUGH GRANT APPROVED

The future just got a little brighter for families in our city! That's because the Plough Foundation has approved a grant request of \$1 million for the Family Safety Center of Memphis and Shelby County.

The funds include \$350,000 to help renovate new space for the Center, as well as operating funds - \$350,000 and \$300,000 for fiscal years 2011 and 2012, respectively. The latter amounts will be considered "last-in" funds, to challenge the raising of additional support from individuals, government, businesses and other local foundations.

"This grant is so important to us," said Connie Ross, FSC executive director. "Not only are the dollars themselves vital, but the grant also is an endorsement of our plans and goals. A plus for us is the addition to our board of Scott McCormick, the Plough Foundation's executive director."

DID YOU KNOW?

The toll that Domestic Violence takes on families can assume many forms. A recent study by the Charter Lakeside Behavioral Health System highlighted two such forms:

- Victims of DV are three times more likely to be victimized again than are victims of other types of crime.
- Children are emotionally traumatized when they witness family violence, and many of them grow up to repeat the pattern as either victims or abusers.

Source: Charter Lakeside, Olive Branch, MS

FSC BOARD CHOOSES A CHAIR

The Family Safety Center's Board of Directors unanimously selected Charles B. (Chip) Dudley to serve as board chairman recently.

Dudley, the co-founder and co-chairman of Independent Bank and a long-time community civic leader, has agreed to lead the FSC in its critical first years of operation, fundraising and growth. Others on the board are Bill Gibbons, Shelby County District Attorney General, Katrina Thompson, Rieta Selberg and Scott McCormick. Ms. Thompson was elected to serve as Board secretary. The board is expected to grow in coming months.

NEWS OF PREFERRED LOCATION LOOMS

A Midtown building that has been considered a preferred location for the new Center changed ownership last month. Lease terms for the property are being negotiated and it is expected that an announcement will be forthcoming in the near future.

Once lease terms are finalized, approvals will be sought from the Shelby County Commission. The FSC will co-locate with other agencies helping families and crime victims in the space that is ultimately selected.

Meanwhile, the Family Safety Center staff soon will be locating temporarily in space provided by LeBonheur Center for Children and Parents.

