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## Creation of Family Safety Center Begins with Strong Leadership

Connie Ross to lead implementation of the city's first Family Safety Center

(Memphis, Tenn.)—The Family Safety Center of Memphis and Shelby County (FSC) will play a vital role in creating a safer Memphis. The purpose and mission of this Center is *to provide one location that effectively combines civil, criminal, health and social services for victims of family violence*. Based on the model of the child advocacy center, this initiative was first promoted by the federal government, then taken on by 28 local stakeholders' organizations and aided by public and private funding.

The early stages of implementation of the Family Safety Center have begun with the hiring of **Program Director, Connie Ross**. Her extensive experience in the legal profession largely focusing on the area of family violence, along with her longtime work with direct service providers in the family violence arena, will provide her with the resources and knowledge to successfully plan, develop and implement the FSC protocol.

Ross, a University of Tennessee at Knoxville graduate, has been the Director of the Civil Litigation Clinic at the University of Memphis since 1991. Her dedication to every facet of the FSC project—from scouting a location to fund raising and raising community awareness—will be a stepping stone in the right direction to help families who are victimized by the pain and trauma of abuse.

“No doubt, the families caught in a web of family violence will benefit from the leadership of Connie Ross. The Family Safety Center program director position is new; however, Connie’s passion for service and her understanding of the needs of families is long standing,” said Memphis Child Advocacy Center Executive Director, Nancy Williams.

Just as the Memphis Child Advocacy Center knows the importance using specialized treatment and programs to help victims become children again, the Family Safety Center will utilize specific programs and resources to create better lives for families victimized by domestic violence.

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