



East Cork Sports Star lines up for Cystic Fibrosis

On March 31st, three of Cork's leading sports personalities, Frankie Sheehan - Ireland and Munster Rugby Star, Cork City Football Star George O'Callaghan and Joe Deane, left corner-forward on the Cork Senior Hurling Team joined together to help kick start the launch of Cork Cystic Fibrosis Week which will take place from 21st to 26th April 2008 and is being organised by Build 4 Life, supported by the Evening Echo.

Build 4 Life was founded by friends and family of Cystic Fibrosis Patients in Cork and Kerry. The aim of Build 4 Life is to:-

- * Raise Awareness for Cystic Fibrosis in the region

- * Raise over €1 million to develop Ireland's first dedicated CF treatment unit within Cork University Hospital. Through the launch Build 4 Life are appealing to organisations, schools, businesses, clubs and individuals to organise a fund raising event or make a donation, during Cork Cystic Fibrosis Week to raise vital funds for this worthy cause.

Cystic Fibrosis - or CF is Ireland's most common life threatening inherited disease. Approximately 1 in 20 people are carriers of the CF gene and when two carriers parent a child, there is a 1 in 4 chance of the child being born with Cystic Fibrosis.

Ireland has the Highest Incidence Rate of Cystic Fibrosis in the World, and one of the lowest life expectancy rates for CF Patients at 21, whereas in many European Countries and in the US, CF patients can lead healthy and productive lives well into 60's. The main reason for this is the lack of dedicated Cystic Fibrosis Units throughout the country.

Cystic Fibrosis Patients can be in serious threat of infections on an ongoing basis, which results in many visits to hospital. At present CF Patients have to be admitted to hospital through A&E departments, which leaves the Patients open to infections which can be very dangerous. There

is an urgent need for dedicated Cystic Fibrosis Units throughout the country, so that patients can be segregated with the risk of cross infection greatly reduced. These units, one of which Build 4 Life is fundraising for in Cork University Hospital, will increase the life expectancy and improve the quality of life of the many CF Patients in the region.

For further information on Cystic Fibrosis and how you could help this worthy cause, please call (021) 4273000 (Mon to Fri 9.30am - 5.30pm - Phones kindly manned by Mardyke Entertainment Complex) or after hours call (086) 386 3949. Information and a downloadable information pack can be found on www.build4life.net. Donations can be made directly through any AIB branch or on line banking. Build4Life Bank Account Allied Irish Bank. A/C No: 42797173; Sort Code 93-41-43.



Promoting 'No Jersey Day' for Cystic Fibrosis were sports stars Frankie Sheehan (Munster Rugby), and George O'Callaghan (Cork City Soccer) and Joe Deane, Killeagh (Cork hurler) with Jessica Rey, Sean Coughlan, James O'Shea and Darragh Quilligan. (Photo: Ger Bonus)