



Cystic Fibrosis group plans to raise a million

A RALLY cry has been made to the people of Cork to get behind a fundraising drive to raise €1 million for the development of a dedicated Cystic Fibrosis (CF) unit at CUH.

A week-long awareness and fund-raising campaign in aid of CF will take place from April 21-26. The appeal is organised by the Build4Life group — which was founded by friends and family of CF patients — and is calling on businesses, schools and individuals to organise a fund-raising event or to make a donation.

CF is Ireland's most common life-threatening inherited disease, with one in 19 people carrying the gene. There is no cure.

According to the chairman of the southern branch of CF Ireland

By EDEL O'CONNELL

Health Correspondent

Paul Higgins: "CF patients can be in serious threat of infections on an ongoing basis, which results in many visits to hospital.

"As a result there is an urgent need for a dedicated CF unit in Cork, so that patients can be segregated and the risk of cross-infection greatly reduced. These units will increase the life expectancy and improve the quality of life of the many CF patients in the region," he said.

The launch was also addressed by 24-year-old, CF sufferer Pamela O'Connor from Cork, whose 14-year-old brother Jason also suffers from CF.

"It is very important that a CF unit is created at CUH, as currently the CF staff are only present from Monday to Friday. If

I get sick on a Saturday or Sunday, I can't go anywhere. There are no staff at the hospital at the weekends who have the expertise to treat my condition."

Adult respiratory consultant at CUH Dr Barry Plant said: "We need a stand-alone day centre and 10 isolation rooms."

General manager of the CUH group, Tony McNamara said the hospital was one hundred percent behind the initiative.

For further information visit www.build4life.net or call (021) 4273000 or 086-3863949.

Donations can be made through any AIB branch or online to Build4life bank account A/C 42797173, sort code 93-41-43.

● A Build4life fund-raising ball will be held on October 4 at the Rochestown Park Hotel.

For more information, contact Lynda Moore on 086-3937054.



Paul Higgins, chairman of the Cork branch of The Cystic Fibrosis Association of Ireland, speaking at the Build4Life launch at Beamish and Crawford. Picture: Eddie O'Hare



Senator Jerry Buttimer; Claire Nash, president of Cork Business Association, and Ed O'Sullivan at the launch of Build4Life. Picture: Eddie O'Hare



Orla Keane, Evening Echo; Deirdre Waldron and Alison O'Brien, both Fuzion Communications, at the launch. Picture: Eddie O'Hare