

Mum who lost three children to Cystic Fibrosis vows to fulfil son's dying wish



Kathy Carlton who lost three children to Cystic Fibrosis.

Picture: Brian Loughheed

A CORK woman who lost three children to Cystic Fibrosis has vowed to campaign for better resources for those with the illness to make her son's dying wish come true.

Cathy Carlton, from Ballincollig, who has campaigned tirelessly for resources for Cystic Fibrosis (CF) sufferers in Cork for the last 30 years lost three of her four children to the disease. Her son Danny, was her third child to die from CF, only days before his 25th birthday.

Before he died he pleaded with his mum to continue to campaign for resources for adults with CF in Cork. Although this country has the highest incidence of the disease per capita in the world there is no specialist unit nor dedicated isolation rooms in Cork.

Cathy lost daughter, Lydia, at 10 years old and Sarah at just seven months to the disease. "Danny had been in hospital

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three times the year he died. He died 20 days before his 25th birthday in 1999. It was heartbreaking," said Cathy. He asked his mother to let him die at home with dignity rather than return to a hospital with inadequate facilities.

"When he was dying he said to me: 'Mum please keep going and try to get resources in place for adults with CF'. That has spurred me on even more," said Cathy.

The provision of a specialist unit for CF patients has been a dream of Cathy's for more than 30 years.

Cathy is calling on the people of Cork to get behind the Build4life campaign which is attempting to raise €1 million for the creation of a specialist unit at CUH and which the *Evening Echo* is highlighting this week.

● See pages 12 and 13 for more.