



# 'Hospital staff are fantastic — but the resources are not'

THE mother of a Cork boy who has Cystic Fibrosis has said the provision of a specialist unit is essential to allow the disease to remain simply a part of his life instead of becoming its defining factor.

Sinéad Dwane from Aghada, has an 11-year-old son, Adam, who was diagnosed with Cystic Fibrosis when he was seven months old.

CF is Ireland's most common, life-threatening inherited disease. Approximately one in 19 Irish people are carriers.

Sinéad said her son had been coping quite well, and so far had not had to endure hospital stays. However, she fears for his future as she knows his condition could degenerate at any time.

The lack of a specialist unit or dedicated CF isolation beds at Cork University Hospital (CUH) means CF patients can end up being exposed to lethal infection risks. People with CF are hugely susceptible to cross-infection from other patients.

When Sinéad first heard about a fund-raising group from this region called Build4Life and its bid to raise €1 million for the provision of a specialist CF unit at CUH, she felt compelled to get involved.

The mum of four decided to organise a fund-raising lunch in aid of the Build4Life fund. With the help of seven of her friends, she ran the successful fund-raiser at the Garryvoe Hotel last year, raising €14,500.

"Last year was the first year and we have booked it again for September 17. We raised €14,500, with thanks to our main sponsor Hurley's SuperValu in Middleton. We also got lots of spot prizes from people in the community. Everyone rowed in," she said.

Sinéad said she feels blessed that her son is able to cope so well with his disease.

"We have been very lucky with Adam, he has never had to stay in hospital. He has to have medication administered intravenously (IVs) every three months but, luckily, we are able to do that at home. He goes to school and he plays football while he is on IVs. He is very active child," said Sinéad.

However, looking to the future

## Get involved in Build4Life

**THE Evening Echo is running a week-long Cystic Fibrosis (CF) awareness campaign in support of the Build4Life fund-raiser.**

● **The Build4Life group, made up of families and friends of CF sufferers, is hoping to raise €1 million to provide facilities for CF sufferers in this region.**

● **A Build4Life week of activities will run from April 21-26.**

● **A major drive is underway to get individuals, businesses, schools, communities and groups to organise an event for Build4Life week.**

**For more on how to get involved in fund-raising, visit [www.build4life.net](http://www.build4life.net) or call (021) 4273000 or 086-3863949.**

● **Donations can also be made through any AIB branch or online to Build4Life bank account A/C 42797173, sort code 93-41-43.**

Sinéad feels it is imperative that resources are put in place so Adam and children like him can continue to have the best chance at life.

"While the staff are fantastic in the hospital, the resources leave a lot to be desired. We are lucky with Adam right now but, obviously, when he gets older things could change. Indeed, the nature of his disease means things could change at any time and it would be fantastic if they had this specialised unit. It would make all the difference in the world," she said.

"My son has CF, it's a part of his life but it does not define him. When the services and the facilities are there, it makes it easier for it to be part of his life and not the defining point of his life," said Sinéad.

The lunch which will be held on September 17, includes pre-reception drinks, demonstrations from Ballymaloe chef Darina Allen, music, raffles and more. Tickets are €50 and are available by contacting 087-9511256.