

Launch of the 3rd Annual National Carer's Week

Because we're worth it- Ireland's Family Carers to be recognised with celebratory week.

(June 8th-14th)

Tuesday 12th May 2009: "Currently in Ireland there are 161,000 Family Carers and Carers Week aims to celebrate and recognise their enormous contribution to society" says Actor Una Crawford O'Brien, who is best known for her role in Fair City. Ms Crawford O'Brien who was speaking at today's launch of National Carer's Week added; 'I am calling on everyone to support people they know who are caring for a loved one, and to encourage all Family Carers who can to take part in events that are being organised for them during National Carers Week.'

The latest figures show that Family members provide care to the value of more than €2.5b per year to loved ones, the worth of which is more than monetary. 'Because we're worth it', the theme for this year's Carers Week, drew inspiration from this statistic. This year marks the third annual National Carers Week, with events taking place throughout the country during the week 8th – 14th June.

This year Carer's Week Partners are joined by the Disability Federation of Ireland (DFI). Joan O'Donnell, (DFI) says 'We are delighted to be a part of Carers Week, our opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the vital contribution that Family Carers make to the lives of people with disabilities.' This year they become the tenth national partner in Carers Week; joining The Alzheimer Society of Ireland, Aware, Bri, The Carers Association, Care Alliance, Extra-Care, Headway, The Irish Hospice Foundation, and The Irish Red Cross.

Events for Family Carers are taking place throughout the country. Full details of events will be posted on the website in the lead up to Carers Week. www.carersweek.ie

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