

Care Alliance Ireland Exchange

Winter 2012 Issue 39

Young Carers Seminar a Great Success

Over the last 18 months Care Alliance Ireland has collaborated with Crosscare (Carers Support) and The Carers Association in progressing new initiatives in the area of young carer support. Specifically, a second Young Carers seminar took place in Dublin on September 25th last. Entitled Young People with Caring Responsibilities - Current Practice, Future Direction – and with over 70 participants from a wide range of sectors, the seminar proved to be a resounding success.

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Dr Geoffrey Shannon speaking at the young carers seminar.

Young Carers Seminar

The seminar was aimed at those who work with young people and their families in a range of settings with a view to gaining:

- A better understanding of issues facing young carers
- Connection with leading practitioners in this emerging area
- Enhanced collaboration between organisations
- Movement to set up and develop additional local young carer support projects.

www.youngcarers.ie

The morning began with a presentation on young carers and child protection by Dr Geoffrey Shannon, Solicitor and Special Rapporteur for Child Protection. He spoke of the lack of a link between services, risk assessments, the approach to family supports and how changes to the constitution can help young carers.

Following a question and answer session Amanda Norris, Young Carer of the Year 2012, spoke of her experience of being a young carer in Ireland and how she came to recognise herself as a young carer and receive support in this role. Members of the audience asked Amanda questions about her experience and how she became aware of the support available to her.

After the coffee break and opportunity to network, Lee Anne Greville, Projects Executive from the Carers Association showed the seminar group the website www.youngcarers.ie and highlighted interactive features such as an agony aunt section, videos and cartoons on the website. Gary Rutherford of The Carers Association gave a presentation on the work that he has done to date as the first dedicated Young Carers Outreach and Development Coordinator in Ireland, including the toolkit that is currently being developed.

Mandy Bell, Development Lead and Locality Manager with Gloucestershire Young Carers gave a presentation on how the organisation began, how they identify, engage and interact with young carers and what kind of supports they offer them.

Liam O'Sullivan, Executive Director, Care Alliance Ireland spoke about the current European Young Carer Initiative, the National Carers' Strategy and other service developments.



Pictured above: Young Carer of the year, Amanda Norris, speaking at the Young Carers seminar.

National News

Young Carers Website Live

www.youngcarers.ie

An initiative led by The Carers Association, this new website offers a suite of resources and tools to both young carers and support workers. The key features of the site include:

- Links to the young Carers social media pages (Facebook/ Twitter/You Tube)
- Video diaries and cartoons.
- A calendar of events which shows information on support group meetings and helplines available to young Carers
- Resources and information for teachers and school policy makers
- An agony aunt section
- An online forum available on Wednesdays



Seminar on Self-Management of Long-Term Conditions

The Disability Federation of Ireland recently hosted a seminar on Self-Management of Long-Term Conditions.

To see the presentation go to:

<http://www.disability-federation.ie/index.php?uniqueID=10618>



National News

Census 2011 Publishes Further Data on Family Carers

The Central Statistics Office published the latest in its series of Census 2011 results on 1st November 2012. The report "Profile 8 Our Bill of Health – Health, Disability and Carers in Ireland" presents a profile of the health of the Irish population, focusing in detail on disability and carers who provide unpaid assistance.



The full report is available on the CSO website along with all the data which is provided in a range of interactive web tables which allow users to search and build their own tables by selecting the data they are interested in and downloading them in an easy to use format for their own analysis.

This profile report is the eight of ten profile reports examining the definitive results of Census 2011 in more detail and continues the CSO's publishing approach of presenting more interpretation and analysis of the data accompanied by illustrative presentations, thematic maps and easy to read commentary.

Speaking about the launch of this data, Deirdre Cullen, Senior Statistician with the CSO said: 'The report also profiles carers in Ireland – those who provide unpaid assistance for a friend or family member with a long-term illness, health problem or disability, and includes for the first time new results on children who act as carers.'

'The census showed that a total of 187,112 persons or 4.1 per cent of the total population were providing unpaid assistance to others in April 2011. Of these carers 114,113 (61%) were women and 72,999 (39%) men. It also showed that 4,228 children aged under 15 years were engaged in providing care to others, accounting for 2.3 per cent of all carers.'

'Further details on these results, and all census data, from county level right down to town, electoral division and Small Area level is available on the census page of the CSO web site.'

For more information, go to:

<http://www.cso.ie/en/newsandevents/pressreleases/2012pressreleases/>

National News

Care Alliance Ireland - Successful bid for European Project

We are delighted to report that our bid with five other carer organisations within the EU has been successful and we look forward to working with these partners over the coming two years. The project aims to share ideas, experiences, perspectives, good practices and act as a lever to spur on local young carer initiatives. The project, entitled, Together for Young Adult Carers (TOYAC) involves 6 European Partners:



- Care Alliance Ireland (Ireland)
- Azienda pubblica di Servizi all Persona del Distretto Cesena Valle Savio (Italy)
- WIR PFLEGEN (Germany)
- Princess Royal Trust for Carers (UK)
- Stichting MOVISIE (Netherlands)
- Anziani e Non Solo società cooperativa (Italy)

Care Alliance Ireland's specific role in the project will be to lead on undertaking investigation that looks at the impact informal/family caring has on young adult carers' participation in third level education and their experiences of this. A number of meetings and teleconferences will supplement local work on the ground, and will culminate in a number of specific project outputs including a website and a handbook.

National Rare Disease Plan for Ireland - update

The Institute of Public Health (IPH) is working with the Department of Health to support the development of Ireland's first National Rare Disease Plan. A consultation process, undertaken in collaboration with the Department and the HSE, comprising an event in Farmleigh together with an online consultation, concluded in July 2012. Work is currently underway to analyse the responses from the consultation process and begin developing the plan.



To access the seminar report from the Insights into Rare Diseases event, go to:
<http://www.publichealth.ie/press-release/insights-rare-disease-research-event-seminar-report-now-available>



NESC publishes three reports

In recent weeks The National Economic and Social Council has published three reports:

- Home Care for Older People
- End-of-Life Care in Hospitals
- Disability Services.

Some salient points from the reports are provided below.

On Home Care

'In future, with more home care contracted out, it may be necessary for State bodies to provide more supports to home care providers to ensure good quality care is provided at optimal cost.' (page 4)

'Only one aspect of home care services (new home care packages tendered out to private and voluntary organisations by the HSE) has strong requirements to meet certain standards. Other types of home care services are not subject to standards, although draft standards for these services exist. This compromises the ability of the existing standards framework to prevent abuse and serious harm in the area of home care.' (page 6)

Speaking on the report Liam O'Sullivan, Care Alliance Ireland, said:

'While we welcome the report, the absence in the report of referencing the views of Family Carers is of concern. Our Carers Strategy speaks of Family Carers as partners in care, but we need to see this evidenced both in research and policy reports and in practice. Family Carers provide the vast majority of home care to dependent people and in many cases the possibility of receiving home care support can enable them to continue to care for their loved ones.'

On End-of-Life Care in Hospitals

'international evidence shows that implementation of several aspects of the standards (such as communicating effectively with patients and their families about end-of-life, providing treatment in line with patients' wishes, multi-disciplinary team-working in the hospital, and staff training on end-of-life care) helps to improve the quality of end-of-life care, while at the same time reducing the costs of that care.' (page 6)

'Devolution and innovation are a strong part of the Hospice Friendly Hospital ethos of building on existing strengths in end-of-life care, with a view to improving it.' (page 5)

National News

NESC Reports, continued

On Disability Services

'different organisations have uncovered distinct ways of achieving high standards of care, from the voluntary application of the Health, Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) standards, to the use of accredited quality assurance systems.' (p5, Executive Summary)

'Developing such a 'learning culture' that can reorder the practice of care is key to a successful regulatory system and has been highlighted by both the HSE and the VFMPR in relation to quality services.' (p6, Executive Summary)

'A closer relationship with service users, their families and advocates, would keep services 'real' as needs and wants change over time.' (p7, Executive Summary)

In response to the report, John Dolan, CEO, The Disability Federation of Ireland said;

'The report does recognise the strong information and good-practice resources provided in the sector, as well as the innovative person-centred services and support that disability organisations have been providing. However, the report mirrors the Value for Money and Policy Review in many ways, in its focus on one part of the sector, and in its lack of appreciation of community based services, as well as the numbers of people with disabilities supported by voluntary organisations, many of which are user led. In this regard, our joint research with Not for Profit Business Association (NfPBA) is due out shortly, and it will provide a more in-depth picture of community based services and supports through exploring the quality and value of this work in improving outcomes for people with disabilities.'

The full reports are available to view at:
<http://www.nesc.ie/en/publications/publications/nesc-reports/>

Launch of Resource for Not for Profit Organisations

The Carmichael Centre KnowledgeNET site was launched on November 9th .

KnowledgeNET is a virtual and free one-stop-shop of practical content on running a not-for-profit organisation. Speaking after the launch Diarmaid O'Corrbui, CEO, said: 'We were able to launch today with 51 knowledge topics from 33 different contributors. We plan to grow and expand the site with further content on topics that are relevant to the business of running a not-for-profit organisation in Ireland. So if you have ideas for content we would love to hear from you.'

<http://knowledgenet.carmichaelcentre.ie/>



Member News

Irish paper on ME/CFS published

Tom Kindlon, Irish ME/CFS Association's Assistant Chairperson (amongst other hats), has recently had a paper published in the peer-reviewed journal, Bulletin of the IACFS/ME.

An abstract of the paper, entitled "Reporting of Harms Associated with Graded Exercise Therapy and Cognitive Behavioural Therapy in Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome", can be read at http://www.irishmecfs.org/GET_CBT_harms.html where you will also find a link to the full paper.

Irish ME/CFS Association
for Information, Support & Research 

Tom has received over 100 emails from various patients, carers, representatives of patient organisations and researchers since the paper was published. The response has been very positive.

The paper has 232 references so as you can imagine it took a lot of work (Tom says this was spread over 15 months).

This is Tom's first published paper. However, he has previously had 12 letters published in various medical journals - all but one in the last four years. He also regularly contributes to discussions on ME/CFS literature, for example, with e-letters to medical journals.

The Alzheimer Society of Ireland's 30th Anniversary National Conference

To view the presentations made, including one on Exploring Dementia Friendly Communities by Avril Dooley, a Board Member of Care Alliance Ireland, see:



<http://www.alzheimer.ie/About-Us/News-and-Media/News/World-Alzheimer-Week-2012.aspx>

Member News

The Carers Association's 2013 Pre Budget Submission

Cost Neutral Proposals for Building a Brighter Future
for Ireland's Family Carers



The submission focuses on a range of issues affecting Family Carers.

To read the submission, see: http://www.carersireland.com/library_prebudget.php

Bodywhys - Support for carers of people affected by eating disorders

Bodywhys is the national voluntary organisation supporting people affected by eating disorders. Their vision is that people affected by eating disorders will have their needs met through the provision of appropriate, integrated, quality services being delivered by a range of statutory, private and voluntary agencies.

Bodywhys offers some useful tips for family members and carers affected by eating disorders.

<http://www.bodywhys.ie/supportingSomeone/family-friends-carers/>

"Eating Disorders - a Resource for Parents" is now available from Bodywhys or by downloading it from its website.

Also see research articles on carers and eating disorders on pages 12 and 13.

Dates for your Diaries

November 2012 to April 2013

5 December
Budget Day



An Roinn Airgeadais
Department of Finance

For details, log on to: <http://www.finance.gov.ie/>

5 & 6 December
Disability Federation of Ireland

How to demonstrate outcomes - 2 day seminar
Venue: DFI, Fumbally Lane, Dublin 8
For more information, see:
www.disability-federation.ie/index.php?uniqueID=10570
or email Eleanor Reece on eleanorreece@disability-federation.ie



6 December
The Wheel

Introduction to Social Media for Charities: Dublin

Venue: The Wheel, 48 Fleet Street (entrance on Parliament Row), Dublin 2
Time: 9.30am - 1.00pm
For more information and to book, please log on to:
<http://www.wheel.ie/training/course/introduction-social-media-charities-dublin-6-december-2012>



13 December
European Seating Symposium - Study Day
For more details see: <http://www.seating.ie> or email lisa@seating.ie

3 & 4 April
International Autism Conference
For more details see: <http://www.autismconferenceireland.com>

Research & Practice

Rural Carers in the US less Likely to Use Respite

A recent overview report on American rural dwellers looks at the barriers faced by family carers in accessing respite and other support services. It also looks at possible solutions including locally based innovative responses.

It highlights a 2006 survey by the NAC and Easter Seals that reported that 'fewer rural caregivers tend to use formal respite, adult day care or support groups, perhaps because these services are not readily available, while urban caregivers utilized adult day care more often.'

To view the full report see:

www.archrespite.org/images/docs/Factsheets/State_Coalition_Fact_Sheets/FS_35-Rural_Respite.pdf



Home Alone: Family Caregivers Providing Complex Chronic Care

The AARP Public Policy Institute (PPI) and the United Hospital Fund (UHF) released a new report that finds 46% of family caregivers perform medical and nursing tasks for care recipients with multiple chronic physical and cognitive conditions. The report, "Home Alone: Family Caregivers Providing Complex Chronic Care", explores the complexity of tasks that caregivers provide.

The PPI and UHF report is based on a national survey of 1,677 family caregivers who were asked about the medical and nursing tasks they perform. Almost half of them perform medical and nursing tasks and three out of four provide medication management - including administering IVs and injections - for a loved one. Further, more than a third of these caregivers providing medical and nursing tasks reported doing wound care. Other tasks included operating specialised medical equipment and monitors. To read the full report see:

http://www.aarp.org/home-family/caregiving/info-10-2012/home-alone-family-caregivers-providing-complex-chronic-care.html?utm_source=Newsletter+October+2012&utm_campaign=Caregiving+Exchange+Newsletter+April+2012&utm_medium=email

Research & Practice

Burden of caregiving amongst family caregivers of patients with eating disorders

Authors: Angel Padierna, Josune Martín, Urko Aguirre, Nerea González, Pedro Muñoz, José M^a Quintana

Abstract

Background:

Eating disorders (EDs) in a close relative can be particularly stressful for family members.

Aims:

To assess the perceived burden of caregivers of patients with EDs and to identify demographic and clinical variables that could predict this burden.

Method:

We conducted a cross-sectional study involving 145 ED patients and 246 related caregivers. ED patients completed the Health-Related Quality of Life in ED-short form, the Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale, and the Short Form-12. Caregivers completed the Involvement Evaluation Questionnaire-EU version, the Short Form-12, the Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale, and the Anorectic Behaviour Observation Scale. Descriptive statistics, ANOVA, Chi-square, and Fisher's exact test were applied to examine the inter-variable relationships.

Method:

A high burden of caregiving was associated with being divorced ($\beta = 14.23$, $SE = 3.88$; $p = 0.001$), having a low level of education ($\beta = 4.70$, $SE = 1.96$; $p = 0.02$), having high levels of anxiety ($\beta = 5.45$, $SE = 2.13$; $p = 0.01$) or depression ($\beta = 5.74$, $SE = 2.80$; $p = 0.04$), and caring for a relative with a low physical quality of life ($\beta = 5.91$, $SE = 1.78$; $p = 0.002$).

Conclusions:

Evaluating family caregivers of patients with ED for risk factors for increased caregiver burden and offering them assistance could reduce their perceived burden of caregiving.

To download full report see : <http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs00127-012-0525-6>

Research & Practice

Quality of life among caregivers of patients with eating disorders

Authors: Josune Martín, Angel Padierna, Urko Aguirre, José M^a Quintana, Carlota Las Hayas, Pedro Muñoz

Abstract

Purpose:

To analyse health-related quality of life (HRQoL) and its associated social and clinical variables among a sample of caregivers of patients with eating disorders (ED).

Method:

It is a cross-sectional study involving 145 patients receiving outpatient treatment for an ED and 246 related caregivers. ED patients completed two self-administered questionnaires: the Health-Related Quality of Life in ED-short form and Eating Attitudes Test-26 questionnaires. Caregivers completed four self-administered questionnaires: the Short Form-12, Involvement Evaluation Questionnaire-EU version, Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale and Anorectic Behaviour Observation Scale. Descriptive statistics, ANOVA, Chi-square and Fisher's exact test were applied to examine the inter-variable relationships.

Results:

Caregivers had low scores on the mental health component of the SF-12 ($P < 0.05$). Low SF-12 scores were associated with a greater perceived care burden in the stress domains in interpersonal relationships ($\beta = -0.360$, $SE = 0.162$, $P = 0.029$) and the need to urge their sick relatives to undertake healthful activities ($\beta = -0.340$, $SE = 0.155$, $P = 0.031$).

Conclusions:

Low scores in the mental health domain of HRQoL among caregivers of patients with EDs indicate the need to pay particular attention to caregivers' emotional status, especially among mothers and partners.

For full article see: <http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11136-011-9873-z/fulltext.html>

Research & Practice

Social support, personality and well-being in caregivers

Authors: Luisa Timothy and Dr Brian M. Hughes - Centre for Research on Occupational and Life Stress (CROLS), National University of Ireland, Galway

Introduction:

Research suggests that some caregivers find the caregiving experience extremely stressful and this can then lead to adverse health outcomes (e. g. Pinquart & Sörensen, 2003a, b). Studies have found that caregivers have a higher incidence of depression, anxiety, and also adverse physical health such as slower wound healing, higher probabilities of contracting the flu, and higher risk of suffering from cardiovascular diseases (Kiecolt-Glaser, Glaser, Shuttleworth, Dyer, Ogrochi & Speicher, 1987; Schulz & Beach, 1999).

Research has found that when there is an imbalance in reciprocity in marital relationships it can have negative mental and physical consequences on the persons in the relationship, especially giving more help than one receives in return (e. g. Gallagher, Phillips, Oliver, & Carroll, 2008). The spousal caregiving relationship may be more vulnerable to imbalances in reciprocity because it may be presumed that the caregiver is supposed to offer more help, advice, and emotional support than they will receive in return. This may then put the caregiver at risk of experiencing more adverse physical and mental outcomes.

Aims:

- to investigate whether an imbalance in the reciprocity in the caregiver care receiver relationship has consequences on the physical and mental health of the caregiver
- to investigate whether objective and subjective measures of stress correspond, and whether it is the subjective measures of stress by the caregiver and/or the care receiver which correspond with objective measures of stress of the caregiver if at all
- to investigate whether personality factors of the caregiver and/or his/her availability of social support has an influence on the above
- to investigate whether the motives why someone cares for another person has an influence on their physical and mental health

Study 1:

The first study will investigate the first three aims on a sample of Irish spousal caregivers. Caregivers will be asked to complete a variety of questionnaires to assess their mental health, their perceived stress levels, their social support, and personality. Further, their blood pressure and heart rate will be assessed during a mental arithmetic task to measure their stress reaction during a moderately stressful task.

Study 2:

The second study will compare Irish spousal caregivers to voluntary semi-skilled caregivers in Basel, Switzerland. The second group is a sample of caregivers which are not related to the care receivers they provide support for and do so on a voluntary basis. This study will be exploratory.

For more information contact Luisa Timothy - l.timothy1@nuigalway.ie

Research & Practice

Article: Family Issues by Ray Jacques

Some key points made:

'Research has shown that family carers support over 80% of people with an intellectual disability and that family care remains the predominant type of care until middle age. Professional, social and political systems need a greater depth of understanding and empathy for the needs of family carers than they have at present. Accounts of families' experiences frequently contain examples of unsympathetic and unhelpful interventions from professionals, which may add further to family stress. Families vary enormously both from one another and over time; the emphasis should therefore be on understanding processes rather than categorical facts, and generalizations are best avoided. This contribution discusses intellectual disability, although many of the concepts and conclusions apply to a range of chronic disabling conditions.'

'The emphasis is no longer on interventions that focus on a family's pathological reaction to the birth of a child with a disability but on supporting and augmenting the adaptive functioning of family care.'

<http://www.intellectualdisability.info/families/family-issues>

This article was first published in Psychiatry; Volume 2:9, September 2003 and reprinted with the kind permission of the Medicine Publishing Company.

CARDI report on long-term demand for care



A CARDI-funded project on future demand for long-term care in Northern Ireland (NI) and the Republic of Ireland (ROI) was launched on 25 October. The key findings show that by 2021:

- The number of people aged 65+ using residential long-term care will rise by 12,270 in ROI, an increase of 59% since 2006. In NI, the rise will be 4,270, up 45%.
- An additional 23,670 older people in ROI will use formal home care, up 57% since 2006. The extra demand for care from statutory providers in NI will be 4,200, up 37%.
- Demand for all day/daily informal home care by people aged 65+ with disabilities will expand by 23,500 in ROI (57%) and the demand for informal care generally by 11,000 in NI (26%).
- 2,833 extra people will require residential or formal home care each year in ROI between now and 2021, and 565 extra people in NI.
- The numbers requiring formal residential or home care will increase further if informal carers are unable to provide the same rate of care as in 2006, which would require all day/daily care for an additional 1,565 people each year in ROI and informal care to 730 in NI.
- In ROI, 14% of older people with limiting disabilities living in the community were receiving no care (8,020 people) compared with 2% in NI (1,100 people) in 2006.

<http://www.cardi.ie/publications/cardiresearchbrieffuturedemandforlongtermcareinireland>

Resources

Skills Acquired through Caring

This popular and useful resource reminds us all about the skills that Family Carers invariably possess but all too often are unaware of.



<http://www.carealliance.ie/userfiles/file/Skills%20Acquired%20through%20Caring.pdf>

Life After Care

A guidebook for those whose caring has recently ceased. Hard copies available on request from info@carealliance.ie



Being Present

A short yet powerful and eloquent description of caring by Jane Hamilton - 'a third option that provided a balance point between caring and not caring, and sustained my capacity to care.'

<http://aginginaction.com/2012/10/being-present/>

7 Deadly Emotions of Caregiving

Paula Spenser Scott discusses how guilt, resentment, and other powerful caregiver feelings can raise your stress and sap your energy, and what you can do to avoid the damage.

<http://www.caring.com/articles/7-deadly-emotions-of-caregiving>

Caring in the News

Media coverage of caring-related issues since September 2012

Budgeting for health – The Irish Times, 6 September, 2012

<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/letters/2012/0906/1224323653164.html>

Neuro Hero: From a wish to a reality – Social Entrepreneurs Ireland, 20 September, 2012

<http://socialentrepreneurs.ie/2012/09/20/hello-world/>

Courts facing tough task on issue of euthanasia – Irish Independent, 29 September, 2012

<http://www.independent.ie/opinion/analysis/dearbhail-mc-donald-courts-facing-tough-task-on-issue-of-euthanasia-3243698.html>

Emotional journey to a brighter future – Irish Examiner, 4 October, 2012

<http://www.irishexaminer.com/farming/life/emotional-journey-to-a-brighter-future-209725.html>

Disability groups 'may reopen protest' – The Irish Times, 9 October, 2012

<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/breaking/2012/1009/breaking42.html>

'I love my patients. But the HSE seems to want us out' – The Irish Times, 13 October 2012

<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/weekend/2012/1013/1224325214666.html>

Carers Association slams government failure to honour commitments – TheJournal.ie, 17 October 2012

<http://www.thejournal.ie/carers-association-slams-government-failure-to-honour-commitments-638585-Oct2012/>

Carers march on Dáil over fears of loss to funding - Irish Independent, 18 October 2012

<http://www.independent.ie/national-news/carers-march-on-dail-over-fears-of-loss-to-funding-3263858.html>

Board orders spending review at homecare firm – The Irish Times, 22 October, 2012

<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/ireland/2012/1022/1224325542725.html>

Caring in the News

Media coverage of caring-related issues since September 2012

Home-help firm faced funding cut after HSE probe into €1m – Irish Independent, 23 October 2012
<http://www.independent.ie/national-news/homehelp-firm-faced-funding-cut-after-hse-probe-into-1m-3270060.html>

Census 2011: 190,000 carers looking after family and friends for free – Irish Independent, 1 November, 2012
<http://www.independent.ie/health/health-news/census-2011-190000-carers-looking-after-family-and-friends-for-free-3279966.html>

Good health depends on class, gender and location – The Irish Times, 2 November, 2012
<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/ireland/2012/1102/1224326035614.html>

Elderly clients on home-help firm's list 'dead for four years' – Irish Independent, 5 November 2012
<http://www.independent.ie/national-news/elderly-clients-on-homehelp-firms-list-dead-for-four-years-3282193.html>

Home helps put elderly man to bed at 3pm due to lack of cover – Irish Independent, 9 November, 2012
<http://www.independent.ie/national-news/home-helps-put-elderly-man-to-bed-at-3pm-due-to-lack-of-cover-3287929.html>

International News

National Family Caregivers Month

November is National Family Caregivers Month. The National Family Caregivers Association in the US coordinates National Family Caregivers Month as a time to thank, support, educate and empower family caregivers. Celebrating Family Caregivers during NFC month enables all of us to:

- Raise awareness of family caregiver issues
- Celebrate the efforts of family caregivers
- Educate family caregivers about self-identification
- Increase support for family caregivers

The theme for NFC Month this year is Family Caregivers Matter.

To read President Obama's Declaration see:

http://www.thefamilycaregiver.org/press_room/detail.cfm?num=175

For more details on the month see:

http://www.thefamilycaregiver.org/national_family_caregiver_month/

About Us

Care Alliance Ireland is the National Network of Voluntary Organisations supporting Family Carers. Our vision is that the role of Family Carers is fully recognised and valued by society in Ireland.

We exist to enhance the quality of life for Family Carers. We achieve this by supporting our member organisations in their direct work with Family Carers through the provision of information, developing research and policy in the field, sharing resources, and instigating opportunities for collaboration.

There are approximately 274,000 Family Carers in the Republic of Ireland. Family Carer support is provided by a number of organisations, including those dedicated solely to carer support and others who support carers as part of their response to individuals with specific conditions.

We work with our 88 member organisations and other agencies to support them in their work with Family Carers. Our membership includes all the carers organisations and virtually all the condition specific organisations currently providing services to many of Ireland's Family Carers.

Become a member of Care Alliance Ireland:
www.carealliance.ie/membership
www.carealliance.ie/userfiles/file/10Reasons.pdf

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10 Reasons
To Join Us

www.carealliance.ie

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