



The Get Running for Ronan campaign raised €13,500 for research into Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy in 2007. Pictured at the presentation of funds which took place in Kilbride Community Centre were Fintan Flannery, Family Support Worker, Muscular Dystrophy Ireland (MDI), Aisling Dermody, Youth worker MDI, Marcella, Ronan and Edmund Gavigan, Fr. Raymond Browne, Deputy Michael Finneran, Alison Neary. Pic: Michelle Hurson.

Get 'Running for Ronan' in Roscommon

Get your running, walking or jogging shoes on and get involved in the 'Running for Ronan' campaign, and take part in the 10k mini marathon in Roscommon over the May Bank Holiday Weekend and help raise vital funds for research into Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy.

The walk is being organised by Fourmilehouse mother Marcella Gavigan, whose son Ronan has Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD). In recent years a group of supporters ran or walked the mini marathon in Dublin in aid of research into DMD, but this time Marcella has decided that it would be more suitable for local people to avoid the expense of a trip to Dublin and take part in the Roscommon mini marathon, which takes place from Hananon's Hotel at 3 pm on the Bank Holiday Monday of the May Bank Holiday weekend.

This year, Marcella nearly decided to forego the event. She felt unable to face ask-

ing the same people again for money and asking local people to take part and had informed a friend that she wasn't going to go ahead with the event.

"Then a few days later a friend of mine called to the house and told me that Fr. Browne had recently offered Mass in Fourmilehouse for Ronan and had praised the work of the local women who donated the 'Running for Ronan' t-shirts and took the trouble of taking part in the mini marathon in Dublin. When I heard that, it was just the push I needed and I decided to organise the event again this year, but in Roscommon this year."

The mini marathon is a fundraiser organised by the Carers' Association, but they have agreed to allow Marcella and her group to take part. The entry fee for each participant will go to the Carers' Association, but all other funds raised will go towards research into Duchenne Mus-

cular Dystrophy, a muscle-wasting disease.

Ronan Gavigan, who is almost 17, is currently in Junior Cert in secondary school in Strokestown. "With regards to Ronan, we were over in the UK with him last week," said Marcella. "The doctors were happy with him and I was speaking to a professor and we were talking about technical trials that have started in England. There are boys Ronan's age on the trials but the professor said that they can't be giving the families of the boys false hope but if the trials become a success they won't cure Ronan, but he would get to maintain the muscle strength that he has at the moment. DMD is a muscle wasting disease so it would be great if he could maintain the muscle strength he currently has."

If you want to join the Running for Ronan Campaign, contact Marcella Gavigan on (086) 8748367 or (090) 66 29817.

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Roscommon Leo Club members Leo Cauneen, Jessica Mawer, Bronagh Donlon and Clara Hester at the Roscommon Lions Club Cheltenham Preview night in the Percy French Hotel, Strokestown, on Thursday last. Pic: Mick McCormack.