



Family
Carers
Ireland

No one should have to care alone

December 2021

To whom it may concern,

My name is Brenda and I am the Mum of a precious angel called Fionn, who sadly lost his battle with a complex illness on September 10th this year, passing away in our arms and surrounded by those who loved him dearly at just 7 years old. As Fionn's Mum and family carer, I was at home, isolated, struggling and feeling completely helpless in my battle for support. I'd like to tell you about the charity that stood beside me for the past four years and often held me up when I felt I couldn't possibly cope for one more day.

From the first time I reached out to them, Family Carers Ireland acknowledged and understood my situation. In addition to limitless moral support on the phone and in-person, they helped me have the courage to speak out on behalf of my incredible son and to advocate for his needs. They provided respite breaks when I was exhausted, counselling when I was on the verge of breaking down and, when Fionn's therapies were withdrawn due to Covid, they assisted in the purchase of a therapeutic bath which Fionn just adored and which eased his muscle spasms so much. Now that Fionn no longer needs it, Family Carers Ireland will pass that bath on to another family in similar circumstances.

I was drowning, I truly was. Family Carers Ireland rescued me and my little family and I will be forever grateful. I am just one of the thousands of people supported by Family Carers Ireland every day. And I am asking you to please help them to help other families this Christmas. You can make a real difference to the lives of the forgotten frontline of the pandemic because no-one should have to care alone.

Wishing you and your family a very Happy Christmas and all the best for 2022.

*Kind Regards,
Brenda O'Connell-Barry*



This is me, Brenda with my husband Trevor and our beloved and cherished Fionn, forever 7, taken in early 2020.