

# A poignant, laughter-filled tribute to brave teacher Caroline

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A CHARITY lunch in memory of a young teacher who died after a nine-year battle with cancer turned into an afternoon of laughter, tears and a serious financial drive to raise funds for clinical research.

There were moments of nostalgia at the Marker Hotel in Dublin as stepmother Dr Helen O'Sullivan Dwyer recalled the brave fight put up by Caroline Dwyer-Hickey who died in March at the age of 35.

Funds raised by the Caroline Foundation at the event in Dublin will go to the Cancer Clinical Research Trust (CCRT).

Professor John Crown who treated Caroline described her as "an incredibly brave young lady" who died at a tragically young age after being stricken by breast cancer. But he also expressed his optimism about treatments coming through "and very exciting combinations of the old treatments".

MC Miriam O'Callaghan spoke passionately about those who are taken early from us.

"Life is sad and along the way we just have to deal with loss," she said, adding that there "wasn't a morning that I don't wake up and think of my sister Anne who died from cancer 18 years ago at the age of 33".



Left: Mary Tilson Ronan pictured before the lunch; above top: Caroline Dwyer Hickey's stepmother Helen O'Sullivan-Dwyer and father Dermod Dwyer; above, Professor John Crown and Caroline; right, Miriam O'Callaghan and Denis Dwyer.



"The thing about life is that you have to go on. The people taken early were too precious for this life and they are the angels who look over us."

The speeches recalled Caroline's brave fight, how she embarked on clinical trials but sadly the disease became resistant to the drug.

Caroline's father Dermod Dwyer, her brother Denis and her husband Ronan Hickey joined family and friends from the teaching community, from her old school at St Brigid's in Glasnevin and Helen confirmed that the Caroline Foundation will become an annual event, with the next one scheduled for October 3, 2014.

There was an auction of goods for the Foundation which has already raised over €20,000 from events. There is a Text-a-Donation campaign throughout October and teachers are encouraged to ask their colleagues to make the cause their own by texting the word Research to 50300.

Comic Deirdre O'Kane flew in from London to perform free of charge at the lunch and guests included Caroline Downey and Penny Dix from the ISPCC.

Caroline's brother Denis wrote how Caroline "lived a fantastic life and has now rejoined her mum Fidelma "somewhere amongst the stars".