

SUICIDE: THERE'S ALWAYS HOPE

■ Local family's campaign to highlight huge rate of suicides

BY PATRICK REILLY

THE brave family of tragic Simon Moroney have launched a campaign to highlight the alarming amount of suicides in Ireland.

Simon Moroney was only 16 years of age when he took an overdose in May 2003. His tragic early death left his family from Rowan Heights stunned and reeling for answers why a young man with so much in his life would chose to end it all.

Simon's Dad Peter Moroney has devoted all of his energies in setting up a suicide support group for families who have been affected by the epidemic. Since the year 2000, a massive 2,738 people have taken their own lives in this country.

Incredibly, that figure exceeds even the amount of people killed on our roads during the same period.

"After Simon committed suicide three years ago we learnt very quickly how bad the general 'sup-



■ Peter, Wayne, Valerie and Lee Moroney holding a photo of Simon, who committed suicide when he was 16. Photo: Suzanne Collins.

ports' are for those contemplating suicide. The more we looked into suicide in Ireland, the more we found wrong so we set about doing something about this terrible tragedy."

"We are now at the

stage where we have clear objectives and a strategy dedicated to reached our goals and getting the message across that "There is always hope."

Peter Moroney can remember the day vividly in May 2003 when he dis-

covered his son slumped on the sitting room floor.

"We had been talking earlier in the day and Simon was in a bit of a funny mood. If you asked him did he want anything and he'd usually say to leave him alone."

"We hadn't been chatting for a while and after we spoke I said 'Are we talking?' and he replied 'Not yet' but gave me a kind of a look. Hearing him say that made me feel a million times better."

"In the afternoon I came downstairs and

Simon was lying on the sitting room floor. He had taken an overdose and we called an ambulance straight away. I was trying to revive him before the medics arrived but it was hopeless. He was gone."

■ Continued page 2

See also Leader View P.22, special feature P.25

HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS

Please note our next Issue will be published on Thursday 5th January 2007. Our offices will close on Friday 22nd December and will re-open on Tuesday 2nd January 2007.

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