Travis Daise, M.D.  
Goodland Family Health Center  
Goodland, Kansas

A firm foundation of family and family practice

Travis Daise lives his dream of being a physician in the town where he was raised.

It seems almost too sweet to be true. Boy grows up in a small rural town and heads off to college then medical school. He returns to his hometown with his wife, whom he met in middle school, to practice medicine at the hospital where he was born.

The story is true and Travis Daise, M.D., considers it an honor to serve the residents of Goodland, the northwest Kansas town where he was born and raised.

“It is such a rewarding privilege to be able to have these connections with people and to provide the care we provide,” says Daise, a family practice physician at Goodland Family Health Center.

Daise, whose grandparents homesteaded in the Goodland area decades ago, returned in 2003 to the town where his parents and in-laws still reside.

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Continuing in a rural foundation

In high school, Daise decided he wanted to pursue a career in the medical field. He enjoyed the science of medicine and knew early on that practicing in a place where he could offer a full range of services would be a perfect fit.

“Family is the biggest reason we came back here after residency,” says Daise. “Being a small town family physician is something I knew I wanted to do. Moving back home and having the ability to have a broad scope practice was kind of the ideal.”

Daise, a 1992 Goodland High School graduate, obtained his bachelor’s degree in biology from the University of Kansas in 1996. In July
1996, Daise married his wife, Melanie, who now teaches middle school in Goodland.

“After high school she ended up going to K-State and I went to KU,” says Daise. “I got to know the road between KU and K-State really well. We were married the July after graduation. We went to Disney for our honeymoon, then we came back and I started med school the next week.”

Daise received his medical degree in 2000 from KU and completed his three-year residency at Smoky Hill Family Practice in Salina, Kan.

“Medical school definitely was good preparation and good basic science and training, but then most physicians really become physicians during their residency,” says Daise. “You graduate with an M.D. from med school but you really become the provider you’re going to become at your residency program.”

The Salina program secured Daise’s focus on rural family medicine and taught him to be a well-rounded, active participant in the community and the hospital.

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In addition to his practice, Goodland’s close proximity to family and convenient location offers Daise the chance to enjoy his time away from his profession. The couple has two children, Jackson, 10, and Allison, 6.

“I love to golf every chance I get,” he said. “And we do a lot of things together as a family. We’re only 17 miles from the Colorado border, we have season tickets to the Broncos games. Most of our families are here or near here so the holidays are always good.”

A broad-scope rural practice

For Daise, the close patient-provider relationship and the opportunity to serve nearly every aspect of his patients’ health needs are the most appealing aspects of becoming a rural family practice physician.

“You develop relationships with your patients,” says Daise. “I know most everybody here so besides being their physician, it’s nice to be able to talk to them about other things like their interests or how their wheat is doing, etc.”

Daise provides obstetrical services and performs endoscopic procedures and colonoscopies at his practice in the town of 4,500 people.

In addition to his personal practice, Daise serves as chief of the medical staff at Goodland Regional Medical Center and is medical director for the Sherman County Good Samaritan Center, Goodland’s skilled nursing facility.

And, because a rural doctor is skilled in many areas, Daise also wears the hat of county coroner and medical director of Northwest Kansas EMS.

“I want to continue to provide good care and do the best we can do,” Daise says. “We don’t necessarily know the landscape of the future of health care but we want to continue to take care of people regardless of how that’s mandated or how that’s provided.”

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