

Family practice in rural Illinois is perfect for Dr. Kurt Crowe

After growing up in the small town of St. Germain, Wisconsin, Kurt Crowe, a 1997 graduate of the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Rockford Rural Medical Education program (RMED), knew that one day he wanted to return to a small town to live and raise a family.

Now that he has completed his residency program, also at the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Rockford, Dr. Crowe is in private practice with Princeton Family Physicians and is grateful for his time spent in Rockford.



"The RMED program gave me the tools, skills and confidence I needed to begin my practice in a rural setting," says Dr. Crowe. "Because of the program I felt confident that my decision to stay in Rockford for the residency program was the right one."



Dr. Crowe was always goal oriented and focused on his path in medicine. "When many of my peers were leaving Rockford for their residencies, I chose to stay. Staying was an easy decision for me because I knew what my long-term goals were," says Dr. Crowe. "RMED helped me under-

stand what I would really need when I was out on my own practicing, and the Rockford residency was it."

With the focus on family medicine, the Rockford residency provides the necessary training for a rural setting. "There's an emphasis on obstetrics and pediatrics – the program is truly unrivaled by other programs in the Midwest," says Dr. Crowe.

With residency under his belt, Dr. Crowe is focusing on building a practice. "Things are working out well for me here," he says. "We are enjoying Princeton and being a part of this community." Being noticed at soccer games, the drug store and Wal-Mart are all common occurrences. "Even if I don't know them,

people know me, and my wife and our kids," says Dr. Crowe.

Many might find living life in a fishbowl disconcerting. But, Dr. Crowe doesn't. "That's what being a rural doctor is all about," he says. "For the most part, people are very respectful of me and my family and I like seeing people in the office and then seeing them out in the community, living their lives. I enjoy being accepted as a member of the community and have the satisfaction of knowing that I'm helping my community grow and prosper," he says.

And, the community is not all that's growing. "My practice is really taking off," says Dr. Crowe. "I'm getting really busy."



Dr. Kurt Crowe examines a young patient in his office in Princeton.