



# From Midtown to Downtown

By Kevin Holten



Patrick (center) and Jill (far right) have fun with a few employees on the Trial Runners float during the July 3 Dickinson Roughrider Days parade.

There are bigger moves—if you include from earth to the moon—but, few bigger than moving from the New York metro-mess to the wild west, which is exactly what Jill and Patrick Healy did when they located Trial Runners, their contract research organization, to downtown Dickinson, where the city's entire population wouldn't fill up a midtown Manhattan high rise.

"The four minute commute to the office can't be beat," said Patrick. "The schools are fantastic, the people are nice and we have family around all of the time."

Jill (Woodbury) Healy is a Dickinson native and North Dakota State University (NDSU) alum, who upon graduation began working for a major drug company in New Jersey, a short swim across the Hudson River from Manhattan. This ultimately led her to meet, work with and marry Patrick, a native of Queens, N.Y., who attended the State University of New York at Stony Brook and the University of South Carolina for his masters, where he got his feet wet as a research assistant in a HIV clinical trial unit.

Eventually, they began co-managing clinical drug trials, which required that they hire contract research organizations (CRO's) to help conduct the trials, and would often be disappointed with their service, and a budget that always seemed to double.

"We knew that we could launch a CRO and do what others weren't doing; provide outstanding service, responsiveness and trust," said Jill.

This led them to Dickinson, a city that offered affordable space and the ability to maximize capital and be more competitive.

It's also where they had visited Jill's family, who owns Woody's Feed and Grain and a 100-acre horse property every Christmas.

"It was better than New York's Central Park!" said Patrick. "And now, our clients don't care if we're down the block or on another planet. Plus, we can attract the best and brightest from Dickinson State University, and the state, and invest time into training them because we know they'll stay with us for the long haul."

From midtown to downtown, this is a move that has really worked. **EM**



Two of the Healy's four children, Ella and Adam, enjoy the openness of the Healy's "back yard" in Dickinson.

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