

DR. TRACEY GODWIN'S

Dentistry Design Studio

WHERE
PATIENT CARE
COMES FIRST

by pamela hammonds

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If you're from the Cypress area, you might know the Godwin family—six kids, loving attentive parents, nice family. In fact, you still could run into most of them at the local grocery or sporting event.

After graduating from Klein Oak High School, little Tracey Godwin attended Texas A&M University and obtained her bio-medical science degree. She then went on to San Antonio's UT Health Science Center and completed dental school.

Upon graduation, she landed a job as an associate in an established private dental practice. It was not what Dr. Tracey Godwin had envisioned for her career. "I went into dentistry with this idealistic attitude about helping people and making sure they have good oral health," Dr. Godwin said. "But what I discovered was the care and the focus for the patient was missing, and the goal in that practice was to make money."

So a year later...she quit. She left private practice and entered the rewarding—albeit non-lucrative—arena of public health. "I loved it," she said of her career change. "I found I got back a million times more than what I gave."

Dr. Godwin ran the Northwest Assistance Ministries (NAM) children's dental clinic and worked at Eastwood Dental Clinic. She took on an assistant professor role at the UT Dental Branch and became the director of the mobile dental van, providing free dental care to the underserved, underprivileged citizens of Houston and East Texas. She also found time to volunteer for statewide mission events with Texas Mission of Mercy.

"Finally, I was able to not only give back to my community but, through my teaching, I could convey that passion to my students," she said.

This year, she opened the doors to her own private practice, but her level of compassion has remained intact. "Although my parents now own a very successful business in our community, growing up money was tight," she said. "I remember my mom having a cracked tooth, and her dentist refused to fix it unless she committed to having all of her teeth restored. We couldn't afford it, so she went to the dental school and got it pulled. That's not the way I treat people."

When patients enter the new office, soft butter-colored walls, comfortable armchairs and sofas await, with pillows and throws for added comfort. The elegant Oriental rug and soft lighting might make you think you're in someone's living room, not a dental office. And complimentary beverages are available as well. But it's not just the amenities that are inviting. "Everyone who works here makes you feel welcome," Dr. Godwin said. "I treat people the way I want to be treated and that starts with my team. We have a big lounge in our office that's devoted just to them—where they can go and relax. They're just as important to me as my patients. I treat my team members the way I expect them to treat our patients."

New patients meet with Dr. Godwin in the consultation room before any dental work is performed. "I like to get to know my patients first," she said. "We discuss what they need to have done and what they want." Her focus is on the person as an individual. She offers free



nitrous oxide (laughing gas) for any patient who desires it. "I don't want there to be any reason for my patients to feel anxiety or be uncomfortable while receiving care."

That comfort extends to the state-of-the-art treatment areas where the soft colors continue to soothe patients and pull-down movie screens and headphones help distract them during their visits.

Although Dr. Godwin's Dentistry Design Studio provides comprehensive family dentistry for children and adults, she is also trained to handle the more aesthetic aspects of dentistry. "I do orthodontics with Clear Correct (clear aligners) and perform oral surgery, gum therapy and endodontics (root canals)," she said. "I do as much as possible in-house so my patients don't have to travel to another dental office." Dr. Godwin continually seeks education and technology advances that will allow her to better care for her patients.

The Dentistry Design Studio offers convenient early morning and late evening appointments as well as flexible financing and insurance billing. Call today to schedule your dental visit to the dental studio designed with you in mind. ☺

