

Weston EMS profile: Rob Weiss: Commuting home to be an EMT

Written by Susan Spindler Jordan, Weston EMS
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Rob Weiss has lived in Weston for 14 years. He was always interested in becoming a Weston EMT but thought the training and commitment would be impossible for someone who commutes to New York City every day.

He found out he was wrong when he sat next to Giselle Vogel at a baseball game.

Ms. Vogel, an EMT herself, explained that the training involves two night classes a week over a six-month period. Then she told Mr. Weiss that he could be on duty during the night shift from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m.

With his concerns answered, he signed up. That was in 2002. "I always liked medical stuff," Mr. Weiss said, "and the community service just feels right since Weston is such an all-volunteer town."

Mr. Weiss continued, "I also like showing my kids that volunteering is a good thing. I don't think you tell them that — I think it's more important to show it."

Mr. Weiss was born in Yonkers, N.Y., but when he was six years old, his family moved to Toronto.

He grew up, went to school and even started his career in Toronto, where he worked at an institutional bond desk. In 1993, he was asked to start a bond desk in New York City for TD Securities.

He commuted for 11 years, and eight years ago, became a financial adviser. He runs his investment management practice out of Morgan Stanley's Fairfield office.

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Mr. Weiss and his wife Joyce married in 1990 and then did something most people just dream about: They traveled the world for a year.

Mr. Weiss talked with fondness about the trip. "We thought it would be our chance to travel before we had kids so we both quit our jobs and took off. First we drove around the States for a few months and then we bought two around-the-world tickets and went to Hawaii, Fiji, New Zealand, Australia, Hong Kong, Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand and Nepal," he said.

"We did a lot of trekking everywhere, but our favorite places were New Zealand and Nepal," Mr. Weiss said. "We were in some pretty primitive conditions in some areas in Thailand, Indonesia and Nepal ... areas you could only get to on foot. Before we continued with our trip we took some time in London in a friend's apartment. That was nice."

Mr. Weiss remembered, "We still wanted to see Greece and Turkey, so we did that and then planned to stay in Europe awhile, but it was one of the coldest winters on record in Europe. So we decided to go to Africa before we came home. When we got to Nairobi there was a lot of political unrest ... and we got robbed. It was the only scary part of our whole trip."

Back at home, the well-traveled couple discovered Ms. Weiss was pregnant with their first child. The move from Toronto to New York City happened a year later.

Ms. Weiss was a computer programmer before the children were born. She is now a personal fitness trainer.

They have three children: Jared, who is in college, and Sydney and Dylan, both at Weston High School. Mr. Weiss said, "The nights I'm on duty if the tone for an EMS call goes off, they know I've gotta go."

Mr. Weiss said he wants to "be sure to let people who commute know that they can be EMTs. It's important."

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Weston EMS is planning a training class in early 2012. Contact Giselle Vogel, gisellevogel@aol.com or Cindy Mayer, crm8993@gmail.com.