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Matthew Miller: a career of helping people

By L.M. VanEvery



Matthew Miller, 31, firmly believes in helping people and using what he has learned to contribute to his community. That's precisely the reason he became a paramedic. Graduating from Kawennio Immersion School in 1999, Matthew entered the work force with a strong sense of respect for people. He volunteered for the Six Nations Fire Department and began to learn about paramedic medicine. "It intrigued me enough that I wanted to pursue it," he said.

He began applying to paramedic programs at colleges and landed in the pre-health science program at Niagara College. Success in this one-year program allowed him to qualify for the paramedic program. Matthew was confident his volunteer experience with the fire department prepared him to succeed. "The fire department

was a good training ground and I was very prepared mentally," he said. In addition to being academically and mentally prepared, Matthew felt he also had the personality traits that would help him in the paramedic medicine field. "I am calm and reassuring and able to work with many personalities," he said. Matthew was having difficulty funding his education and applied to GREAT for assistance. GREAT was able to assist Matthew with purchasing equipment relating to his career. Matthew graduated from the paramedic program in 2002. He landed his first job at the Six Nations Ambulance Service. He next trained as an Advanced Care Paramedic and graduated in 2008.

Matthew has gained work experience from seven different services including Norfolk County, Oneida First Nation, Hamilton, York region and Waterloo. Recently, Matthew was instrumental in assisting GREAT/OSTTC/GRPSEO and Fanshawe College in their partnership to deliver the Advanced Care Paramedic training program for the Six Nations Ambulance Service. Matthew helped set up the program and this partnership resulted in five Advanced Care Paramedic graduates this year. Matthew's goal is to gain all the experience he can possibly get and bring it home to Six Nations to try and help his community. He has already succeeded in doing this.

Looking to improve his skills and gain more experience, Matthew applied to Ornge Air Ambulance, the medical transport provider. This organization gets over 1,000 applications each year. Last month, Matthew succeeded and became a Flight Paramedic for Ornge, the first from Six Nations.

Matthew now sets his sights on training for the Critical Care Paramedic designation. This training is only offered at Ornge. Thinking back to when he began this career goal in paramedic medicine, Matthew recalls, "At first it seemed impossible." "You have to have drive and discipline to do it," he adds. For a career that receives very little pats on the back, Matthew advises, "You have to genuinely love what you do." For Matthew, his best reward is when he's able to help bring life into the world. So far, he's helped deliver 14 babies.

For more information on how GREAT can help you find your career path contact us at 519.445.2222 today! We look forward to helping you.