

GIVING YOUR HEART AND SOUL

Conversation with Andrea Kesar | Intensive Care Nurse

[Point of view, intensive care nurse, Andrea Kesar]

[Andrea:] Come in anyhow, because you'll make me feel better.

[Unidentified person:] You know, can I have some...

[Andrea:] It's hard to talk about Marc, for me.

[Unidentified person:] Yeah?

[Andrea:] Yeah.

[Andrea Kesar, Intensive Care Nurse, Jerusalem, Israel]

I have known Marc since the day he was born, personally, and I've known him professionally from day number one.

[Andrea's phone rings]

[Interviewer:] Go for it.

[Andrea:] Oh, it's Marc. We will be done with Romeo at 5:00. Okay. I'm just shutting my phone.

So, I've known Marc his entire life personally and professionally. He is a remarkable person. He will give his heart and soul to save any child around the world. He does. Teaches? He does. He proclaims. And he gets involved with so many teams all around the world. That it's absolutely amazing, the number of lives he's changed. He's had excellent role models in his mother and father who also are really important in volunteering and giving their hearts and souls to many many people all over the world. So, he's a product of the both of them, the best of both worlds.

[Marc:] All right, we'll get started here. Oh my God, look at you.

[Andrea:] Marc's mother is from Czechoslovakia. She went through the Holocaust, and she was in hiding with her mother in Bratislava with a very special Christian family. And his father was American, born to Russian parents. Wonderful, wonderful people on both sides. I can't speak highly enough of them, absolutely wonderful, and he got the idea for all his giving from them.

But he took it about 10 steps more. Whatever was expected of him, he did more and more and more, and it's just incredible how much giving he does.

His mother was a teacher, and at a very young age she was a principal in a school in Harlem. It's not a great neighborhood in New York. And Marc's father was a very well-known neurologist who wrote books, and had courses that he gave for neurological residents whose specialty was neurology. And they were always a big part of their community, the school systems, the synagogue. Wherever they were, they were just into giving and donating and leading people to a better life.

It was always assumed that he would go to medical school, but it was very hard for him to decide what kind of doctor he wanted to be, because he needed to do something with his hands. He was always very very good with motor skills. So, I had the thought that maybe he would be a surgeon and I just asked maybe he wanted to be Ear Nose and Throat, he goes "nah, that doesn't sound right". And then he met up with Dr. Peña [Alberto Peña], who became his mentor, and Marc inherited Peña's role in the colorectal world, changing people's lives. And again, he not only took over for Peña, he absolutely went above and beyond Peña, just like he did with his parents. He learns and then he takes it 10 steps forward, and he deserves a big big big big big big heart, which he has.