

NORTHBROOK

PERSONALITY

Barry Zweibel

Stay-at-home dad

As a telecommunications executive, Zweibel used to catch the 6 a.m. train and often not return home until after dinner. "When you get to a certain level of success, you ask 'Is this all there is?' I saw my kids growing up and though I was trying to play an active role, it was hard for me." Two years ago, the Northbrook father of two traded his downtown job for the joys of homework advice and carpool duty. Zweibel's wife, Nancy, had been staying home with the kids but was eager to put her doctorate in gerontology to good use. "We took a deep breath and switched roles." In the mornings, Nancy heads off to the Retirement Research Foundation. Meanwhile, Barry drives Andy, 14, and Jessie, 10, to school and feeds the family's golden retriever, Angel. A professional life coach, Zweibel finishes with his clients by early afternoon, in time to pick up the kids from school, shuttle them to softball games and help them study for spelling quizzes. He also fixes dinner most nights. "It's nice to share their lives, 'real-time.' It's so awesome to be part of it." He says the community's stay-at-home moms have welcomed him. "I knew I was accepted when the moms in the group asked if I would be an emergency contact."

The coach

As an executive, Zweibel was often tapped to help 'techies' refine their leadership and inter-personal skills. "People, if you can tap into the magical zone where they're enthusiastic and motivated, can do such wonderful things." He started "GottaGettaCoach," his own business and life coaching company, two years ago. For more information, see www.ggci.com or call (847) 291-9735.

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