

**DAESHAWN**  
**+ CHRIS**



THANK  
YOU SO  
MUCH



TAKING A  
PEAK AT WHO  
ARE ARE

WE ARE  
**DAESHAWN  
+ CHRIS**

**YOU READING THIS GIVES US HOPE THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO START OUR FAMILY AND WE CANNOT BEGIN TO EXPRESS THE GRATITUDE WE FEEL IN**

**THIS MOMENT.** We are a pair of college sweethearts, passionate educators, solid superhero nerds, and avid travelers who have been together for over 13 years. We believe in building a family that is healthy and nurturing and makes space for our kids to grow and realize their full potential.



**WE BELIEVE** in building a family that is **HEALTHY AND NURTURING** and makes space for our kids to **GROW** and realize their **FULL POTENTIAL**.



# OUR STORY



## WE MET A FEW TIMES BEFORE FALLING IN LOVE.

First, it was a weekend where Daeshawn visited campus as a prospective student during Chris' freshman year, then it was as an incoming freshman during Daeshawn's summer orientation and Chris' first serious summer job, and finally it was as college friends. We instantly had a connection, often staying up talking about professors, classes, and the state of the world. Not much has changed since then, aside from our ages. We often stay up late at night discussing education, research, love and life, and the state of the world. The difference now is how much we can change it.

# WHAT MAKES US TICK

Movies! We are huge movie buffs and often go to the movie theater once a week. We have a range of movies we like to see, but we mostly enjoy superhero movies and comedies.

We also enjoy going out to dinner and trying the wide variety of cuisines that New York has to offer. When we are not having our typical weekly movie and dinner date night, we like to visit friends and family or take in cultural events around the city, like a Broadway show, food festival, museum, or concert. **OUR FUTURE CHILD WILL HOPEFULLY PARTAKE IN OUR NERDINESS, DRESS UP FOR COMICON WITH US, LOVE RIDICULOUSLY SIZED SWEETS IN THE THEATER, SHARE OUR LOVE FOR RAMEN SPOTS, AND BE JUST AS COMPETITIVE WHEN PLAYING UNO.**



BEAUTIFUL VIEWS

WE LOVE TO TRAVEL!



AND WE LOVE ICE CREAM!



**OUR COMMUNICATION** has been and always will be the foundation of our strong relationship. Above all, the only thing that hasn't changed over the past 13 years is that we are the **BEST AND TRUEST OF FRIENDS**—never any lies, egos, or resentments.

**“THINGS ARE BIGGER THAN US.” WAS OUR FAMILY MOTTO.**

I grew up in Brooklyn, NY with my mom, stepdad, and three younger sisters. My parents instilled in me a need to serve my community and to be a part of a collective change for the better. As a family, we often volunteered time in our local community center by preparing meals or organizing for community leaders. My parents even encouraged me to join the Boy Scouts to get a better understanding of the needs and inequities in our larger Brooklyn community.

# ABOUT DAESHAWN

This sense of service has guided my personal and professional life in every aspect, from social justice clubs and organizations in high school and college, to becoming an educator and volunteering for local and state political candidates. **I THINK IF I CAN POINT TO JUST ONE THING I LEARNED FROM MY PARENTS THAT ECHOES THROUGHOUT MY LIFE, IT’S TO LEAVE THINGS BETTER THAN YOU FOUND THEM—INCLUDING THE WORLD.**

## DAESHAWN'S CAREER

**FOR AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER, I WAS AN EDUCATOR.** It was my responsibility to make sure my sisters completed and corrected their homework each night. This encouraged me to become a tutor in school and then a teacher for the deaf and hard of hearing after graduate school. Since college, I've been a teacher and leader in my field, overseeing a small elementary school program for Deaf and Hard of Hearing students. My favorite part is the relationships I make with the students and the parents over the course of their time at our school (and even after!).



### WHAT MAKES ME TICK

#### COOKING →

I MAKE AMAZING TACOS + GUACAMOLE

#### GARDENING

#### PAINTING

#### LISTENING TO MUSIC

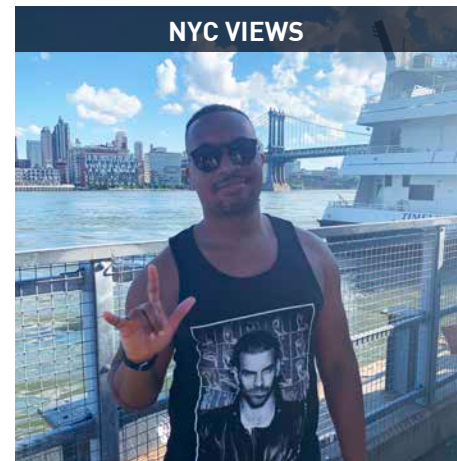
#### TRAVELING

#### CERAMICS →

I HAVE MY OWN STUDIO SPACE IN QUEENS



A DAY ON THE WATER



NYC VIEWS



**I GREW UP SPLITTING MY TIME BETWEEN NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK WITH MY MOM, DAD, AND THREE BROTHERS AND MY PARENTS' COUNTRY OF MALTA.** The two places couldn't be more different, and that difference helped to shape who I am today.

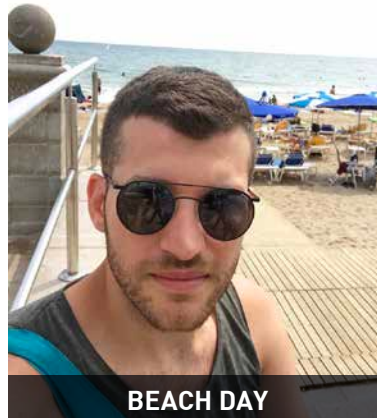
NYC was a fast-paced, diverse, mosaic of so many communities and cultures. Growing up here instilled a deep sense of care and curiosity in those who had different experiences than me. Malta, on the other hand, was a slow-paced place where everyone knew each other or was related in some way or another (at least in my family's village). It was a place where my siblings and bigger cousins took care of me and I did the same for my younger family members. Spending time there helped grow my strong family values and desire to form my own family now. **THE BUBBLY, TENDER, LOVING PERSON I'VE GROWN INTO IS A TESTAMENT TO THE CONTRAST AND CONTRADICTIONS OF THOSE TWO PLACES.**

# ABOUT CHRIS

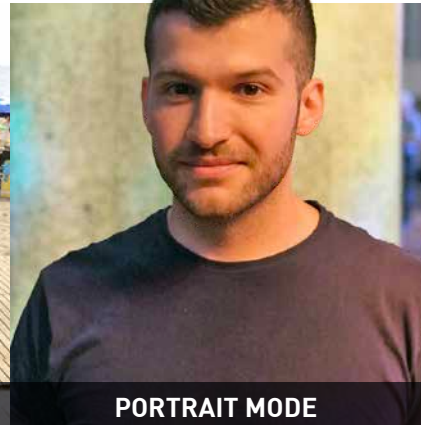
## CHRIS'S CAREER

### I LOVE WHAT I DO!

**FOR THE PAST 2 YEARS, I'VE BEEN WRITING K-12 CIVICS, HISTORY, AND COMMUNITY ACTIVISM CURRICULA FOR THE 1.1 MILLION STUDENTS IN THE NEW YORK CITY PUBLIC EDUCATION SYSTEM.** I also get to work with and support teachers and school leaders to build stronger practices in classrooms and communities. Prior to that, I taught in high school humanities classrooms for about 6 years. It's been so gratifying to see so many of my former students excel in college and go on to become educators themselves.



BEACH DAY



PORTRAIT MODE

## WHAT MAKES ME TICK

YOGA

READING + COMICS

HISTORY

VIDEO GAMES + D&D

COOKING + BAKING

TRAVELING

### COSTUME DAY AT SCHOOL



TO INTERVIEWS!

Do Now

H.W.

LOG #7

↑ Due Monday



# HOME SWEET HOME

**WE BOTH GREW UP IN NYC AND CAN'T IMAGINE OURSELVES LIVING ANYTHING BUT THE CITY LIFE!** We

love the convenience and the hustle and bustle! We are rarely bored and love to take in all that the city has to offer. That

was part of the reason we decided to settle in Astoria, Queens. There is so much to do here—movies, restaurants, museums, parks and playgrounds, rock climbing—you name it, we've got it! More importantly, it was our top priority to live in a community that valued cultural and economic diversity and Queens is the third most diverse county in the entire U.S.! We look forward to long family strolls through the borough and all of the opportunities for our children to interact with people and communities that are different from their own.

NYC CITY VIEWS



**FEW FUN FACTS**

YUM! CUPCAKES

DAESHAWN IS A SLYTHERIN → CHRIS IS A RAVENCLAW

DAESHAWN KNOWS SIGN LANGUAGE → CHRIS SPEAKS MALTESE

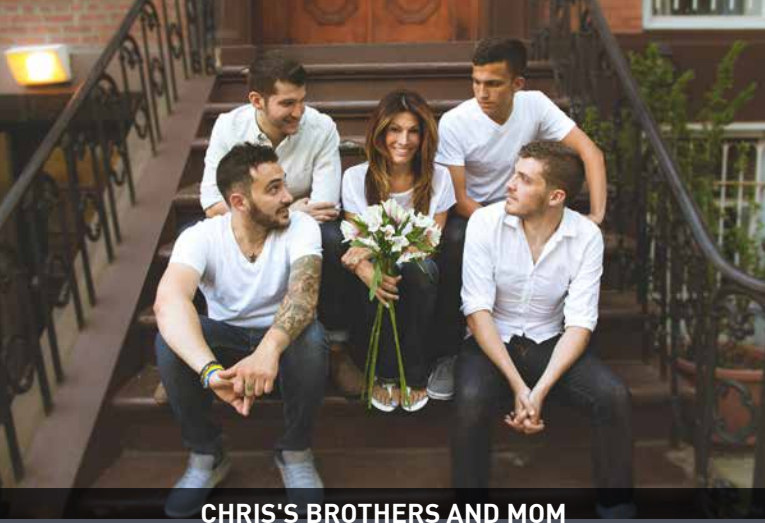
DAESHAWN COLLECTS SUCCULENTS → CHRIS COLLECTS COMICS

DAESHAWN LOVES DRAKE → CHRIS LOVES BEYONCE

DAESHAWN'S FAVORITE CHILDREN'S MOVIE IS INTO THE SPIDERVERSE

CHRIS'S FAVORITE CHILDREN'S MOVIE IS MY NEIGHBOR TOTORO





CHRIS'S BROTHERS AND MOM



DAESHAWN'S FAMILY

**WE ARE LUCKY TO BE SUPPORTED** by an amazing group of family and friends!

## OUR VILLAGE

Holidays are some of our favorite times to spend with family members because it's sometimes difficult for everyone to gather in one place at one time. During the holidays, we are jumping from home to home eating lots of food, chatting, and playing board games. On the weekends, we like to have brunch with Chris' mom and dinner with Daeshawn's mom. Once a month we venture out to Brooklyn to have a home-cooked meal with Daeshawn's dad and during the summer we travel to Malta to see Chris' Father. We also have a very large extended family and friend group that we talk, video chat, and vacation with and see regularly. **OUR FUTURE CHILD WILL HAVE A VILLAGE OF CARING ADULTS AND COUSINS OF ALL AGES NEAR AND FAR WHO WILL BE THERE AS STEADFAST SUPPORTS, FUN HOLIDAY COMPANIONS, AND LIFELONG FRIENDS.**



CHRIS AND HIS BROTHERS WITH THEIR DAD

## SPIRITUALITY

**Though we are not religious, we believe in RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.**

We have celebrated religious holidays with friends annually and often visit various places of worship. **PERSONALLY, WE ARE SECULAR HUMANISTS BELIEVING DEEPLY IN THE POTENTIAL GOODNESS OF EVERY PERSON AND ABILITY OF PEOPLE TO LEAD ETHICAL FULFILLING LIVES THAT CONTRIBUTE TO THE GREATER GOOD OF HUMANITY.** We look forward to exploring different traditions that our children find meaningful and making sure that above all else they are instilled with a deep respect for all people and commitment to involvement in the community and social justice.



**GREAT FRIENDS**

# WHY ADOPTION

**WE'VE WORKED TOWARD BUILDING A FULFILLING LIFE TOGETHER**, and we have a strong extended and chosen family. Though when it comes to our foundation, we've always been a unit of 2, and while we've cultivated so much love for each other, we have so much more to give and share. Adoption is how we hope to expand our foundation of two into a family. To have the opportunity to be

dads, to share our love and values with our kids, to find our own small traditions.

**AT THE CORE OF WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE VALUE IS OUR COMMITMENT TO MAKING THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE.** This shapes who we are and many of our big decisions and these are the core values we want to pass onto our child.

## WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Contact our Adoption Attorney  
**Brian Esser**  
**ESSERLAWOFFICE.COM**



Contact us directly  
**FAMILYASSEMBLE.COM**  
**FAMILYASSEMBLE@GMAIL.COM**

