

Shawn Alex Nemeth

Houston, Texas

Shawn@ChesterStreetFoundation.org

713.899.7399

SUMMARY

A talented speaker, author, and entrepreneur with nineteen years of nonprofit leadership experience, Shawn Alex Nemeth has dedicated his life to helping childhood trauma survivors heal and thrive. After suffering horrific abuse as a child, Nemeth threw himself into nonprofit work as an adult. Working around the world to help others heal, he spoke to audiences numbering in the thousands throughout the U.S., Europe, and South America, while his inner child suffered in silence. The silence broke in 2009, when Nemeth was hospitalized with PTSD. He learned that the long years of trauma had been encoded in his brain and body, as is common for many survivors of abuse and neglect. With treatment, courage, and self-compassion, Nemeth began the long road to recovery and founded the Chester Street Foundation (CSF) to give traumatized children a voice. CSF aims to shine a light on childhood trauma through education and advocacy. In addition to his work with Chester Street Foundation, Nemeth shares his inspiring story with audiences large and small as a professional speaker and through his 2017 book, *Thorns of Chester Street*.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Founding / CEO

Chester Street Foundation, Houston, Texas

2017 – Present

A 501c3 nonprofit organization committed to helping traumatized children heal.

ChesterStreetFoundation.org

- Pursue collaborative partnerships with child-serving organizations and school districts.
- Recruit board members.
- Develop relationships with potential funders.
- Recruit speakers and establish leadership team for the annual conference.
- Primary TraumaTALKS presenter.
- Solicit grants and partner with grantors on desired outputs and community impacts.
- Supervise design and implementation of educational materials, in-person training events, and on-demand courses.
- Manage staff and team members.
- Develop/manage budgets and direct daily operations.

Speaker / Author / Life Coach

Houston, Texas

2006 – Present

- Empower others to become their best selves by speaking publicly on overcoming adversity, self-care, and childhood trauma recovery.
- Author of *Thorns of Chester Street*, an autobiographical memoir whose sales benefit the Chester Street Foundation.
- Conduct individual coaching sessions focused on physical, mental, emotional, relational, vocational, and spiritual wellness.

Paralegal

Walker & Hunter, PC, Houston, Texas

2002 – 2004

- Assisted with new-client screening and listing.
- Performed medical records management and secured medical providers for client care.
- Formulated and delivered demand packages to insurance companies for settlement.

Retail Management

Crate & Barrel, Chicago, Illinois, and Houston, Texas

2001 – 2002

- Supervised in-store sales floor.
- Provided effective solutions in customer service and dispute resolution.
- Conducted training programs.
- Supported management functions in HR, profit consolidation, scheduling, and inventory.
- Selected to establish a new retail location (Houston).

College Instructor / Living Praise Director

Christ for the Nations Institute, Dallas, Texas

1998 – 2000

- Taught, developed curriculum, and counseled students in the School of the Arts.
- Directed all facets of Institute's traveling ensemble, including artist selection, repertoire, tour operations, rehearsals, and recordings.
- Served as worship leader for the Institute and on-tour.
- Developed new strategies for advertising and PR, including radio commercials, printed collateral, press releases, and fundraising events.
- Secured, planned, and coordinated national and international events.
- Represented the Institute nationally and internationally through public speaking, vocal performances, radio broadcasts, and TV appearances.
- Managed staff and volunteers.
- Oversaw renovation of tour bus.

Associate Pastor, Youth and Missions

Koinonia Christian Fellowship, Hanford, California

1996 – 1998

- Ran the youth department, including budget management, leadership development, directing performance ensemble, weekly gatherings, counseling, and special events.
- Planned youth missions to Mexico, coordinating fundraising, missions training, and scheduling.
- Oversaw the missions department, including budget management, planning, annual conference, and visiting missionaries for in-person support and accountability.
- Developed proposals for expansion of programs.
- Designed and developed marketing communications materials.
- Presented regular updates to board and congregation.
- Co-directed social service event for 5,000 low-income families.
- Assisted with weddings and funerals.

Associate Pastor, Worship and Single Adults**New Life Christian Center, Danville, Illinois****1995 – 1996**

- Directed music department and all seasonal productions.
- Managed staff and volunteers.
- Served as public speaker and counselor.
- Established and directed new program for singles.
- Assisted with weddings and funerals.

Assistant Worship and Student Ministry Leader**Christ for the Nations Institute, Dallas, Texas****1994 – 1995**

- Managed and mentored student worship teams.
- Assisted with band rehearsals for daily chapel.
- Spoke at and oversaw weekly student-ministry sessions.
- Led worship for morning chapels and scheduled guest worship leaders.
- Production assistant for CFN Music recording label.
- Worship leader for Co-Founder Freda Lindsey's national tour.

Director, Music Department**Agape Word Fellowship, Vandalia, Illinois****1990 – 1993**

- Managed all aspects of music department and directed all seasonal productions.
- Served as teacher and public speaker.
- Assisted with weddings and funerals.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS, ENGAGEMENTS, AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The Invisible Wounds of Childhood Trauma: A Personal and Professional Perspective. Co-presenter: DeJuana Jernigan, LSW, LCPAA, Hope and Healing Center & Institute, Houston, Texas; February 13, 2019.

TraumaTALKS: Caring for Kids as Educators & Professionals Working with Children (virtual), part of a day-long virtual professional development conference. New Caney ISD, ADV Academics & Counseling Department, New Caney, Texas; May 27, 2020.

Together Toward Tomorrow Virtual Conference. Keynote speaker. Texas Foster Care Association, Texas; October 17, 2020.

Resiliency Conference. Keynote Speaker. Region Four Education Center, Houston, Texas; June 21, 2022.

TraumaTALKS: Trauma in the Classroom, Parts 1 and 2. Fort Bend ISD, Fort Bend, Texas; July 27, 2022.

TraumaTALKS: Trauma in the Classroom, Parts 1 and 2. The Children's Assessment Center, Houston, Texas; September 23, 2022.

An Introspective Look at Trauma and the Need for Self-Care. Chester Street Foundation Inaugural TraumaTALKS Conference. Co-presented with Dr. Ann Friedman. Houston, Texas; February 24, 2023.

Spring Branch Community Health Center's Fall Harvest Luncheon. Keynote Speaker. Houston, Texas; September 13, 2023.

An Introspective Look at Trauma and the Need for Self-Care. The Health Museum, Keynote, Co-presented with Dr. Ann Friedman. Houston, Texas; September 8, 2023.

Burnout: Fueling the Flame of Resilience. Special keynote presentation for UnitedHealthcare staff, Co-presented with Dr. Ann Freidman; Hilton Americas Hotel, Houston, Texas; February 8, 2024.

Managing PTSD and Anxiety Following a Cancer Diagnosis: Effective Strategies to Navigate. Keynote, Co-presented with Dr. Ann Freidman; Thyroid Cancer Survivor's International Conference; Hilton Americas Hotel, Houston, Texas; September 21, 2024.

PROFESSIONALLY PRODUCED EDUCATIONAL VIDEOS

Reframe it! Association of University Radiologists, filmed at Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas; November 2015.

Shining a Light on the Invisible Wounds of Childhood Trauma: A Personal and Professional Perspective, filmed at Midtown Arts and Theater Center, Houston, Texas; August 2020.

Could it be Trauma? Supporting Kids on the Road to Recovery, filmed at The Event Company, Houston Texas; November 2022.

An Introspective Look at Trauma and the Need for Self-Care, filmed at The Health Museum, Houston, Texas; September 2023.

Managing PTSD and Anxiety Following a Cancer Diagnosis: Effective Strategies to Navigate, filmed at ThyCa: Thyroid Cancer Survivor's International Conference, Houston, Texas; September 2024.

EDUCATION

Christian Life School of Theology	
Baccalaureate Degree in Theology / Theological Studies	1993 – 1995
Christ for the Nations Institute	
Practical Theology Diploma / Theological Studies	1993 – 1995
Greenville College	
Major in Contemporary Music	1988 – 1990
Ohio University	
Major in Vocal Performance	1987 – 1988

LICENSES AND CERTIFICATIONS

Fowler International Academy of Professional Coaching	
Professional Coach	2015 – Present
Life Coach Institute of Orange County	
Life Coach	2014 – Present
International Sports Sciences Association	
Personal trainer	2005 – 2020
Living Word International	
Licensed / Ordained Minister	1994 – 2000
Ministerial Fellowship of USA, Inc.	
Licensed Minister	1992 – 1994