

How School Dropout Went From Couch Surfing to Managing Millions



New York City, Oct 16, 2019 (Issuewire.com) - [Dallas Basha](#) is a 24-year-old real estate developer, social entrepreneur, and speaker. He is the owner and CEO of a multi-million-dollar real estate investment firm called [Basha Real Estate](#). At the age of 21, Dallas became the youngest real estate developer in Pennsylvania while getting his bachelor's degree in Finance from Lehigh University. Along the way, Dallas moved from city to city, couch surfed, and at times, had limited access to basic amenities like a bathroom and kitchen. It's fair to say he's used to austere environments.

Dallas' story isn't the traditional post-college find a job, work 9 to 5, and party on the weekend type of story. Right before his college graduation, Dallas ignored societal pressure and the advice of his friends and family, and instead, listened to his gut. In 2017, Dallas quit his job, dropped out of his Master's program, and moved to Florida to start a company. The path Dallas took intrigues me due to the fact he had everything lined up after college, yet he chose to take a leap of faith and risk it all.

"At first, this was a very challenging decision to make, but I had a simple question that made the answer crystal clear. Looking back at both paths, I asked myself, would I have more regret getting a masters and working a finance job? Or will I have more regret about starting a new company? The answer was evident. I never wanted to be burdened with "what if." As crazy as it may sound, the most uncomfortable moments are the ones I know I will miss the most. Couch surfing, sleeping on an air mattress in a garage, or even needing to sneak my way into the school gym to work out and take a shower. My family thought I was crazy and probably still do. Those are the nights I'm going to cherish because as I grow and build my companies, I will always miss the times I started at level 1. Kind of like in a video game."

Dallas Basha was raised in Vienna, Virginia, a small town near the suburbs of Washington D.C. He went to a French international school where he was one of the only American students. His entire educational curriculum was based on the French system. "For some reason, learning languages was always challenging for me. I would get picked on because of my accent, which didn't make it fun either. When I turned 18, I ended up trading stocks on my phone during my classes. I made about \$10,000 that semester, which I was proud of. As Warren Buffet puts it, Rule #1: Never lose money. Rule #2: Never forget Rule #1. I followed both of his rules quite diligently."

He now says that he is very grateful for that unique opportunity because he had a chance to get to know different cultures from around the world. He also lived and studied in France three times during his childhood. Maybe the emergence in the French school was the reason why he fell in love with exploring new cultures and traveling. Today, Dallas travels the world and has shown he's easily adaptable to new environments.

At a very young age, Dallas was always interested in new and creative ways to make money. It became one of his hobbies. As a kid, he started collecting and selling sports cards and memorabilia. During his summer vacations, he thought of new ways to earn money so he didn't have to work retail or at a restaurant – the typical summer job of most at the time. "It wasn't the idea of making money just to spend it that made me love my hobby; it was the fact that it was a literal game to me. How can I make money today? The answer to this question was a challenging puzzle that made me think with the end goal of someone being happy and me receiving money. I never spent the money I earned. I would save every penny up until I turned 18. Then I invested it into the stock market. In hindsight, I wish I started investing much earlier."

At college, this game he played only continued to develop. As a freshman, he identified a big market opportunity amongst students and off-campus housing. "I knew I had to save up a significant amount of money to buy my first property. So, I got my license and became a financial planner for my sophomore year." That year, Dallas was awarded as [the top producing](#)

[financial representative](#) in the country out of 3000+ other qualifiers. "That summer, I learned a lot about myself and how strong of an impact the combination of hard work and patience has on a business". Dallas says he earned 6 figures that summer which he used to purchase his first real estate property at the age of 21.

That property was the first of many. Dallas later founded one of his first companies, Basha Real Estate,

and he became [the youngest real estate developer in Pennsylvania](#). Dallas is currently managing a multi-million-dollar portfolio that ranges from student housing, apartments, retail, and office space. He's currently working on a large development project that he says is currently confidential. However, he did say it's his biggest and most exciting one yet.

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