

Education: BS in Finance from University of Florida; MBA in Finance and Accounting from Columbia University

Company Name: New York Life

Industry: Financial Services

Company CEO: Craig DeSanto

Company Headquarters Location: New York, NY

Number of Employees: 11,601

Words you live by: You may have to fight a battle more than once to win it.

Who is your personal hero: Martin Luther King

What book are you reading: *The Year of Magical Thinking* by Joan Didion

What was your first job: Summer camp counselor

Favorite charity: Various education scholarships

Interests/Hobbies: Reading, sports, puzzles

Family: Single



Life is All About How You Treat People

The most inspiring person I know is my former college roommate, Paul. I learned a very important lesson from Paul when we were 18-year-old college students: always treat people well.

I have now known Paul for more than 30 years. We met as college students and were instant friends. We later became roommates, during which time I first witnessed his strong capacity for compassion, consideration, and understanding of others. Paul was one of the most popular students in our dormitory, because of his openness and acceptance of all people, his ability to listen and to be compassionate, and his willingness to make sacrifices to help others in need. There were many late-night

knocks on our door as other students with various problems sought help and comfort from Paul, knowing they would always find a willing listener. His approach was always the same: listen and hear, understand and forgive, and find a way to help. I knew then that Paul was a person I wanted to be my lifelong friend.

In the years that followed, Paul held true to his values despite the many trials that we all experience in life. He is now a loving husband and father of two. One of his children, Sara, was born into tragic circumstances, and Paul and his wife adopted her and gave her a stable family environment. Parenting is always a challenge, but Paul and

his wife are loving and attentive, great teachers and nurturers, and patient and protective. Sara is now a budding teenager, smart, well-adjusted, and, most importantly, loved. She is a perfect testament to the values her parents demonstrate every day: compassion, acceptance, and generosity.

The enduring lesson that my friendship with Paul has taught me is that life is all about how you treat people. We sometimes make life very complicated but I try to always remember that it's people that matter above all else. By living a life of compassion, kindness, humility, and generosity, we can all do our part to make the world a better place.