

HeART & SOLE



Dawn Alston is a Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, native; she grew up in Northern Virginia. Dawn developed her passion of baking at the age of six. Her uncle David was well known for his southern cuisine and cakes made from scratch. Every opportunity that she had with her Uncle David, she tagged along him in the kitchen, especially during cake baking time. Her last memory of spending time with her Uncle David was very sweet. He baked the family a mouthwatering lemon pound cake. The family lined up in the kitchen eager to taste Uncle David's lemon pound cake. The memory of how a freshly baked cake can bring joy and happiness upon a face and the togetherness of family will forever motivate Dawn to create delicious cakes.

During a season of unemployment and managing a single parent household, Dawn remembered the love and happiness that a cake could bring. She made frequent visits to the community library and read a plethora of baking & pastry books. She spent long nights in her kitchen baking cakes from scratch. Dawn baked her daughter Raven, a birthday cake and made her Mother a Rum Cake for their birthdays. This is where it all started! Her family and friends enjoyed tasting her cakes. The cakes were so rich in flavor that they insisted to pay her for her labor of love. At that point, her Sister Dana, suggested that Dawn immediately start up a cake business. Dawn named her business Ravy Cakes, because her daughter's name is Raven and people raved over her delicious cakes.

As Dawn continued to bake for her family and friends, Dawn stepped out on faith to pursue her passion of baking. She enrolled in culinary school full-time to study Culinary Arts with a concentration in Baking & Pastry. While in culinary school, Dawn was assigned to bake a biscuits recipe. Dawn created a unique biscuit recipe. It was a hit! She was then given the name "Baker Dawn." In 2012, Dawn formed a student team with her classmates to compete in the Zoofari cake competition at the National Zoo in Washington DC. Dawn enjoyed the opportunity to compete.

After graduating from culinary school in 2012 with an Associate's Degree in Culinary Arts, Dawn continued to make a name for herself with baking cakes for church events, birthday parties, weddings, and any occasion that a cake was requested. Another great memory for Dawn, was competing in a local 2014 Cupcake Challenge Competition. Over the years Dawn developed her signature cake recipes. Ravy Cakes specializes in custom cakes and pastries. Cake Jars were later added to Dawn's list of delicious delicacies. Dawn is also known as "The Cake Jar Queen."

Dawn serves the DMV and beyond! She is currently earning a Bachelor's degree in "Business Administration with a concentration in Organizational Management."

Dawn Enjoys spending time with her nieces. Every opportunity that they have together she teaches them about baking and cake decorating. It is Dawns desire to leave a legacy for her daughter and nieces. With the thanks to Dawn's late grandmother, Reverend Doctor Rudyne Sherfield, she instilled in Dawn and her family a bible scripture Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me". Since all things are possible, Dawn works effortlessly to continue to express her love of baking. One of Dawn's goals is to have her creations available internationally.