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Donor 3918 Interview Notes

Donor 3918 impressed me immediately with his calm and down-to-earth presence. He seemed shy at first, but as he warmed up he became more comfortable, his blue eyes lit up, and his curved smile emerged in flashes of expressiveness and humor. His outfit was casual but well put-together and neat.

Donor 3918 seemed most at ease when reminiscing about growing up surrounded by his extended family. He discussed his mother's sudden death as a result of an elective hysterectomy with maturity and poise. He seemed to feel a special connection with his maternal grandparents, describing his grandfather's integrity with pride and reminiscing over his and his cousin's adventures in the backyard at his grandparents' house. His maternal grandmother was a wonderful cook of Italian food, and growing up with fresh vegetables and home-cooked meals seems to have shaped the donor's decision to work in culinary arts.

He was similarly enthusiastic in talking about his daughter, shyly displaying a picture for me to look at and bragging about her height in his soft-spoken but forthcoming way.

I was surprised by how quickly donor 3918 opened up, since he initially seemed so soft-spoken. However, soon into our interview he became talkative and friendly. He seemed consistently thoughtful and attentive, never talking at the expense of listening and really hearing it when someone else spoke. I was impressed with his commitment to exercise and he continuously reiterated the importance he placed on a healthy lifestyle. Overall, I got the impression that donor 3918 has a grounded outlook and a humble but solid sense of self.

Interviewer: Alex Holding

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