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Donor # 4251 Interview Notes

Donor 4251 initially comes across as younger than his 31 years. He seems to float through his life, able and willing to focus on the things that interest him, not likely to put energy into those that don't. He seemed distracted at times during our interview and the longer we spoke the more I came to understand that donor 4251 definitely exists in his own world. But some of his spacey-ness is just disguised shyness and he is proved capable of opening up if one asks the right questions.

His family is extremely musical, and he has relatives who have been song writers, piano players, singers, dancers, and an organ player. When I asked him whether these things influenced his life- he initially looked blank. As I gave him a moment to think I watched his face light up as memory took over his expression. He laid his hands in front of him as if playing the organ. After a moment he told me-- eyes bright and excitement written over his face-- that he had just remembered what it was like to play his grandfather's organ as a child. He said that as a child he was allowed to play on it (or more accurately, bang on it, he clarified) and it was one of his favorite things to do when he went over to his grandparent's house. It was a joy to watch him unearth this memory as we spoke.

One of the unique things that I appreciate about donor 4251 is that he manages to combine the different parts of his personality in interesting ways. He loves both skateboarding and photography and synthesizes these two passions by photographing his friends whenever they skate together. He seems dedicated to his photography and has worked in a number of jobs taking pictures. He was a building photographer and took school pictures before he made freelance photography his primary career. He said that he is relieved to be doing a job that he loves so much. He lit up when discussing his niece and he gave his sister a portrait of her new child for Christmas this year. Although he is dreamy and independent this does not translate to carelessness for his loved ones.

One of the donor's goals I was most impressed with was his plan to start his own magazine. He currently posts his photos online but is working on disseminating them, displaying a do-it-yourself ethic and initiative. He said that printing and photocopying his pictures has lent them a grainy quality that he enjoys. Donor 4251 has a very casual appearance—tousled hair and jeans—but it came across as cute rather than messy. His dreamy demeanor initially hides the motivation and enthusiasm that is an integral part of his personality.

Interviewer: Alex Holding

Date: March 11, 2009