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Donor # 4236
Interview Notes

The overall impression I get from donor 4236 is that he is a very solid person, in both appearance and personality. He is tall, well built yet thin, with strong legs, nicely shaped lips, and a well-shaped narrow nose. He comes across as a clean-cut, country boy, wearing a brown thermal underwear shirt, nicely tailored jeans and black leather boots. I can definitely picture him country-line dancing, and in fact he met his fiancée dancing. He let me know that they are both from small, woodsy towns, and they enjoy dancing, hiking, and going to the theater together. This donor really likes being outdoors, hunting, motorcycle racing and riding. He is a very interesting person, and I think he is the type that takes a little while to open up. Donor 4236 is comfortable talking about himself and I think if he knew me better he'd really be able to express himself well. I would describe this donor as a very nice guy, who has country charm and a strong sense of self.

This donor has been a wilderness firefighting for the last seven years and was recently hired in a local firehouse. I can see him fitting in as a firefighter, as a rookie he always has to be busy doing things for the house. His probation period is almost over and the donor said that he is looking forward to "being a human again", i.e. being able to take a break. This is very different from being a wilderness firefighter, where even his superiors were considered friends. Local firefighters have a hierarchy and he has to put his time in to earn the respect of the other firefighters. He's getting used to that process, and enjoys the work he is doing. Donor 4236 plans on being a career fireman. The donor was originally planning on being a teacher but changed his mind while working towards his teaching certificate. He happened to meet a retired fireman in one of his classes who asked him if he was happy and loved what he was doing. Donor 4236 said that what he loved was firefighting. The retired fireman basically yelled at him and said, "Why are you planning on being a teacher? You can be a teacher when you're 50, you can't be a fireman when you're 50. Do what you love until you can't do it anymore, and then you can work on being a teacher." The donor took those words to heart and decided to pursue a carrier as a firefighter, while also finishing his teaching certification program.

Donor 4236 knows a lot about his family's history and enjoys telling stories about family members. I was impressed to hear him tell stories about his great grandparents' lives. As a history major, this donor has a keen interest in his heritage, and he can trace back to some of his origins in Ireland and England. His family has lost their connection to their Italian and German heritage and I can tell that he mourns that loss. Overall he is a good resource for anecdotal stories and his genetic heritage. He told me about his grandfather, who worked on the railroads, as well as other interesting stories about his relatives.

As someone who has family members with fertility issues, the donor knows the impact he is making by becoming a sperm donor. Part of why he chose to be a donor was to be able to help people who want to have children. He thinks adoption is a really wonderful thing to do, and is considering it with his fiancée, but also recognizes that people often want a genetic link to their children.

Interviewer: Danielle Klinkow Date: 1/28/09