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## Donor # 4398

### Interview Notes

Donor 4398 is so sweet and enthusiastic that at first I thought he was trying to shmooze me. As I spent more time speaking with him I found him to be genuinely enthusiastic, unabashed and attentive. He has thought hard about his decision to be a donor and is very comfortable with his choice. He is truly invested in doing this as a good deed that will help others have families. He is not particularly shy, and is frank when talking about his strengths. He does come across as smug; he described feeling corny while writing his donor narrative and we agreed that it is better to be corny than glib. I liked him very much.

One of the first things the donor said to me was that “friends come and go, but you will always have your family.” He is the youngest in his family and the only boy, and his sisters spoiled him when he was younger, he admitted ruefully. Now that they are all adults the donor is very close with them, his whole demeanor brightens when he talks about them. He credits his older sisters as introducing to him and cultivating his love of yoga and mediation. As his family has spread out he has realized how close they all are and they all have plans to move closer to each other soon. I was impressed by his commitment to them. His family is Israeli – the donor joked that he is unique in being the only Israeli son whose parents never taught him Hebrew. His parents have been activists throughout his life, working to create dialog around peace in the Middle East, but never tried to instill their values in their children, giving them tools instead to make up their own minds and find their own paths. He had strong pride in his maternal grandparents, who he described as having done and seen it all in their long lives. They are creative, his grandmother was a ballet dancer and his grandfather was a painter as well as a doctor. Perhaps donor 4398 gets his musical talent from them.

Donor 4398 is a go-get-‘em type. He is eager to succeed and good at figuring out how he will accomplish his goals. He wants to work in both the non-profit sector and the music industry. Although he wants to be a music manager he is also a musician himself. Guitar and saxophone are his primary musical instruments. His family members are big music appreciators but are not musicians themselves -- his commitment very much stems from his own impetus and interest.

The donor is a good looking man with big brown eyes, an enthusiastic smile and a small eyebrow ring. He is fresh-faced but I can picturing him aging well, getting wise and happy looking smile lines around his mouth and eyes. He has light acne scarring on his cheeks. He mentioned that he looked like the actor Jake Gyllenhaal and I can see the resemblance in his face shape and coloring, although his eyes are far less broody.

Donor 4398 is very easy to like. His excitement is infectious, making me feel excited just by being around him. His gusto for life comes across as young but appealing. His joy for life seems to stem from his creative, supportive and vast network of family and friends – a network he described in a way that brought to mind a living, breathing organism. He talks with his hands, bringing his descriptions to life and the listener along with him. With his charm and people skills, as well as his enthusiasm for so many things in life, he is in a great position to become a solid, kind and successful man.