



Reproductive Technologies, Inc.

# THE SPERM BANK OF CALIFORNIA

## Interview Notes: 4784

Donor 4784 is one of the most lovable people I have met. With an infectious smile, he exudes happiness and warmth. He came to our interview wearing baggy blue jeans, a striped t-shirt under a grey windbreaker and DC shoes. His oversized baseball hat sat backwards over his long, shoulder-length black hair, and the iconic white headphones trailed down to his pocket. He wore frameless rectangular glasses and had a light goatee and a little black fuzz over his lip. Apparently, this is the only facial hair he is able to grow. The donor does resemble Steve Aoki (as he says in his Personal Questionnaire), but a much younger, much sweeter, smiling version of the DJ.

4784 immediately launched into his complex life story. Born in Japan, he was the first son in his family. His mother's father owned several restaurants and had arranged the marriage. Having a son is fortuitous in Japan, so when he was born, donor 4784 was spoiled rotten. His mother had two more boys before the couple divorced. She packed up her children and left for the States without telling anyone. She remarried and had a fourth son.

Having come from a well-off household in Japan, where he was favored and spoiled, 4784's new lifestyle (considerably less affluent) was difficult and confusing for him. He spent most of his time at school or with friends. It was helpful that he was popular. At 16, donor 4784 convinced his mother to allow him to graduate from high school early. His plan was to take cooking classes and start an apprenticeship as a sous chef at a Japanese restaurant. He soon found that cooking at a restaurant was vastly different than cooking at home. The hours and stress associated with a busy restaurant were too much for a 16-year-old, and he found himself working 10-12 hours, 6 days a week. As a result of the work hours, stress, and an aversion to spending his free time at home, donor 4784 found himself hanging out with a rough crowd. After a run-in with the law, he spent a year in Juvenile Hall. Instead of moving back home when he was released, he moved into a youth home-- a move that changed his life for the better.

In his youth home, donor 4784 found the support and encouragement he needed. His supervisor instilled a sense of security in him, and served as a great male role model in his life. His therapist helped him find his voice and understand what it feels like to feel truly *heard*. These two influential people made donor 4784 realize that he wasn't cut out for the restaurant business. Reassessing his goals, 4784 now wants to earn a PhD in Psychology so that he can help others in some of the same ways that his therapist and supervisor helped him.

Donor 4784 feels very connected to the Identity-Release<sup>®</sup> Program because after moving to the United States he grew up knowing almost nothing about his biological father. His mother's departure from her arranged marriage cut ties with his biological father completely. Recently, donor 4784 began asking his mother questions about his father, and she has declined to give him much information. He made a point of telling me how much it would mean to him to be able to give offspring the opportunity to have information about him if they seek it. Donor 4784 has an indomitable spirit and uncrushable optimism. He not only affected me with his joyfulness, our staff feels the same way about him. I've rarely seen anyone so enthusiastic and genuine about life. Although his story is at times troubling, it's easy to imagine all the good that donor 4784 may accomplish when he finally reaches his goal of working with youth. This was easily one of my most enjoyable interviews.

Interviewer: Anat A.

Date: March 6, 2013



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## DONOR PROFILE: 4784

The past and current personal and family medical history, physical examination, and laboratory test results determine that donor 4784 is eligible and approved for semen donation at THE SPERM BANK OF CALIFORNIA. This profile was prepared in July 2013.

### PERSONAL INFORMATION

- Identity-Release<sup>®</sup> Program: **YES**
- Month/year of birth: **02/1992**
- Education: **Obtaining Associate's degree. Plans Bachelor's in Psychology**
- Current occupation: **Student**
- Ethnic origin: **Japanese**
- Religion: **None**

### PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

- Height: **5' 5.5"**
- Weight: **127**
- Hair color: **Black**
- Hair type: **Straight**
- Eye color: **Dark brown**
- Complexion: **Fair/rosy**
- Body type: **Medium**
- Blood group/Rh: **O+**
- Baby photo available: **Yes**
- Other distinguishing features: **Dimple, right cheek**

### FAMILY MEDICAL HISTORY

**KEY: D** donor    **Ch** child    **F** father    **M** mother    **S** sister    **B** brother  
**Co** cousin    **A** aunt    **U** uncle    **MGF** maternal grandfather    **MGM** maternal grandmother  
**PGF** paternal grandfather    **PGM** paternal grandmother

Blood: **MGM: High blood pressure at 57, treated with medication, managed, ongoing. PGM: High blood pressure in 40's, treated with medication and diet change, ongoing.**

Mental Health: **M: Depression at 24, no treatment, resolved recently (now 42).**

Metabolic/Endocrine: **MGM: Hypothyroidism at 62, treated with medication, managed.**

Muscles/Bones/Joints: **MGM: Gout at 50, treated with medication, managed.**

Respiratory (Lungs): **PU: Asthma during childhood, treated with inhaler as needed, ongoing.**

Sight/Sound/Smell: **D: R eye 20/200, L eye 20/200 (20/20 with glasses).**

Substance Abuse: **MGF: Alcoholism at 34, no treatment, sober for past 4 years (now 70). MGM: Alcoholism at 40, no treatment, ongoing.**

## DONOR LAB RESULTS

Chlamydia: **Not Detected**  
HIV 1 & 2: **Non-Reactive**  
Hepatitis B: **Non-Reactive**  
Urinalysis: **Normal**

Gonorrhea: **Not Detected**  
CMV total antibody: **Negative**  
Hepatitis C: **Non-Reactive**  
Chem panel: **Normal**

Syphilis: **Non-Reactive**  
HTLV 1 & 2: **Non-Reactive**  
CBC: **Normal**

## GENETIC SCREENING RESULTS: ALL TEST VALUES IN NORMAL RANGE

*Genetic screening tests can significantly reduce, but never completely eliminate, the chance that a person is a carrier for a particular disorder.*

Cystic Fibrosis: (> 500 mutations) **No mutation detected**  
Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA): **Two copies of SMN1 detected**  
Hemoglobinopathies/Thalassemia: **No abnormal hemoglobin detected (including sickle hemoglobin);  
No evidence of thalassemia**

## DONOR NARRATIVE: 4784

*The content of this narrative has not been altered by TSBC staff and therefore reflects original written work of the Donor*

### Describe your personality: introvert, extrovert, funny, serious, goal-oriented, curious, shy, etc.

I would describe myself as a very intelligent, reasonable, and rational person. I can be shy, but once I start to feel comfortable, I can become very outgoing and silly. I am a curious person and like to learn new things. I am very clever, so I learn things fairly quickly and know how to think outside the box. I am also kind, polite, and honest. I believe I am a good person and strive for excellence.

### What are your interests and talents?

I think the human mind is fascinating. I can usually read people very well. This is one of the reasons I picked Psychology as my major. I also like to play and watch sports but especially love to play baseball. I am a very good cook and worked as an apprentice for a couple years under a Japanese chef. I found it was not the same as cooking at home, but I still cook most of my meals myself at home. I love to read all types of books, both fiction and nonfiction. I listen to all kinds of music, anything that makes me want to move my head. I like to watch movies and tv shows of all genres except horror.

### What are some of your goals and ambitions in life? Where do you see yourself in 5 or 10 years?

I want to get a degree and receive my Ph.D. in Psychology. I want to help kids in the juvenile halls realize they have more potential than what everybody tells them. They need someone to show them that they can actually succeed in academics and being physical is not the only way they can be strong. I hope to one day be in the Psychology books with my own theories and maybe even discover a universal, effective parental curriculum. In 10 years, I hope to have a house and be on the way or already have my own family. I want to have two kids, one boy and one girl. I am not sure where I will be living, but hopefully by then, I would have traveled around inside and outside the country to find the best place to create a life.

## How would you describe your skills and interests in the following areas?

**Math:** I am very good at math. It was my best subject in school, but I never liked it. I always thought it was boring.

**Mechanical:** I do not know much about cars or engines, but I am good at fixing things. I grew up in homes that were very old, and I would figure out how to fix the things that broke when I could.

**Athletic:** I played many sports growing up, but I loved baseball. I was always one of the top players in each of the leagues I was in. My main position was a pitcher, and I would play second base when I wasn't pitching. I was once MVP when I was 13 in my little league, and played in high school.

**Musical, Artistic, Creative:** This is one of the few talents I wished I had. I played trumpet in middle school and can sing fairly well, but I cannot draw. I am a creative person, but I cannot draw anything I see on paper.

**Language (what languages besides English do you speak?):** I am learning ASL and was once fluent in Japanese. I forgot Japanese when I was younger because my mom stopped speaking Japanese to me when I moved to the US when I was three. I am going to re-teach myself hopefully this summer.

**Writing:** I am a fairly good writer. I know my grammar well, but my vocabulary is not very big.

**Literature:** I am not good with poems, but I am a fast reader. I can usually finish a novel in a couple days if I am not too busy.

**Science:** Math and science have always been my strong suit. It was easy, but I never enjoyed it.

## If you were stranded on a deserted island and could only have one book, one movie and one album, what would they be?

**Movie:** *The Gladiator*

**Book:** *Ender's Game*

**Album:** *Metaphorical Music* by Nujabes

## What are some of your reasons for becoming a sperm donor?

At first I needed the extra cash with my school schedule that didn't allow me work enough hours. After learning more about the program, I am continuing to do this not just for the money, but also for the couples not able to conceive a child on their own. I believe everybody deserves to be able to raise a child and make their child a better human being than themselves.

## Did you choose to be an Identity-Release® Program donor?

Yes  No

## Why did you make this choice?

I decided to be part of the Identity-Release Program because I believe every child has a right to know where his genetics came from. I know if I knew that I was a child produced from a donor's sperm I would want to know who that donor is. I believe nurture over nature, but nature does have some influence on who you are. Ultimately, nature does decide how you look physically, but identical twins can be two separate people, personality wise. I personally don't think I would be able to make too much of a difference or help, but I want to give the child the freedom of choice and answer any questions he or she may have.

## Would you like more information on our Identity-Release® Program?

Yes  No

## Is there anything else you would like to share with participating families and offspring?

I was always an extra hyper child full of energy growing up, but I calmed down as I grew older. The extra energy really helped out in sports, but also made my mom a little crazy from exhaustion always trying to keep up. I went through different stages as most kids, but in the end I believe I ended up as the sweet, nerdy kid before becoming a teenager.

**Health Problems Donor 4784**

<b>FAMILY MEMBER</b>	<b>HEALTH PROBLEM</b>	<b>TREATMENT/RESOLUTION</b>
<b>Mother</b>	Depression	Age at onset/diagnosis: 24 Treatment: None Outcome: Resolved recently (now 42)
<b>Maternal Grandfather</b>	Alcoholism	Age at onset/diagnosis: 34 Treatment: None Outcome: Sober for 4 years (now 70)
<b>Maternal Grandmother</b>	Alcoholism	Age at onset/diagnosis: 40 Treatment: None Outcome: Ongoing
	Gout	Age at onset/diagnosis: 50 Treatment: Medication Outcome: Managed
	High blood pressure	Age at onset/diagnosis: 57 Treatment: Medication Outcome: Managed, ongoing
	Hypothyroidism	Age at onset/diagnosis: 62 Treatment: Medication Outcome: Managed
<b>Paternal Grandmother</b>	High blood pressure	Age at onset/diagnosis: 40's Treatment: Medication, diet change Outcome: Ongoing
<b>Paternal Uncle</b>	Asthma	Age at onset/diagnosis: Childhood Treatment: Inhaler as needed Outcome: Ongoing, managed

The above family medical history information has been self-reported by the donor. We work with each donor to obtain as complete and accurate information as possible, but we are unable to completely rule out the existence of other health information that is not known, or that remains unreported to us.

As a board certified genetic counselor, I have reviewed this donor's family medical history for identifiable patterns of inheritance that may place the donor or his biological offspring at increased risk for certain health problems. ("Increased risk" is risk that is greater than the risk in the general population).

Both maternal grandparents apparently have a history of alcohol abuse. The factors contributing to this issue are complex, and likely include environmental, personal, cultural and possibly hereditary influences. Upon review of the available family medical history information from this donor, the risk for similar health problems occurring in offspring is not expected to exceed the risk in the general population.

Cynthia Kane, M.S., C.G.C. Genetic Counselor