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Donor # 4650 Interview Notes

Donor 4650 came to our interview wearing athletic shorts, a red Under Armor tee, and a pair of flip flops. Before I entered the room, he sheepishly apologized to the Genetics Counselor about his casual attire and told her he wished he had worn something more formal. Even though his attire did not bother me in any way, I found his apology to be very sweet and thoughtful. This donor has a round face, thin, slanted eyes with no eye fold, and a slightly crooked smile that provokes a charming quality. I know it may sound random but combined with his military buzz cut and his round face and features, this donor slightly resemble an adult, human version of the character *Caillou*.

Though this donor has a serious demeanor that makes him seem older than 18, he is at the same time quite silly, engaging, and easy going. Donor 4650 is from a military family and spent his early childhood in Korea, Germany, England, Virginia, Mississippi, and New Hampshire. His family finally settled in California when he was 8. His time spent in several different locations explained his accent that I could not place. He told me growing up he was often teased for using regional slang; for example, he calls shopping carts *buggies* and drinking fountains *bubblers*. His current military involvement and pride is apparent with a *ma'am* attached to a majority of his responses and he even brought his newly tailored uniform to our interview and laid it neatly and carefully on the chairs next to him. Despite encouragement from his family to seek out an Officer role, the donor is aiming for the front line because he *wants to kick down doors*, explaining, *I'm a dude—I grew up playing videogames*.

Donor 4650 has a healthy relationship with his family, and is closest to his father and his sister. He mentioned that his mom is *a nice Korean lady* and he views his brother as *the good son* because of his choice to pursue a degree in Dentistry. His brother lives in a neighboring city, and is the donor's *go-to guy to bail him out*. I thought it was very sweet he comes to visit the donor a couple times a month with bags filled with Korean food. 4650 has an even closer bond with his sister, who decided to pursue a career as a police officer regardless of having been accepted to a prestigious Medical School. The two enjoy talking about guns and pass time together at the shooting range. His father is an interesting character and currently spends his retirement tending to his vegetable garden. One year he gave his father artichoke seeds as a gift, but after that season his father never grew them again *because artichokes grow horizontally instead of vertically; that messed up his maximum output*. He laughed a lot telling me that story. His dad also makes his own wine by *soaking grapes in sake*. I can tell from the donor's tone while speaking of his father that he truly reveres him.

Donor 4650 is filled with quirks and has a fun way of telling stories. I can tell from a majority of his childhood memories that he enjoys marching to the rhythm to his own beat. For example, this donor went to a private boarding high school where he started an acappella singing group with his friends when they did not make the school choir. They became a huge hit with his classmates and even produced a Christmas album. The donor also took up banjo lessons *because every other guy plays the guitar*. His brother is his only sibling that did not attend boarding school because he likes stability; however, to the donor, four years in the same place is stability.

Donor 4650 is dedicated to his ROTC training and school. In his free time he enjoys hanging out with his friends and visiting new places in the Bay Area. He is an outdoorsy individual that loves to fish and spent a lot of time fishing as a boy. When I asked him if he has ever caught anything, he responded with, *negative—I've never actually reeled anything in, I just like sitting there*. The donor went on to talk about his opinions on animals. I learned that he is terrified of rats because they have rabies, and that he thinks *hamsters are cute- except when they show their teeth*. He loves dogs, except *purse dogs*, and would like to have a dog and cat when he has his own home—*a cat because you know when they do that purr thing? Yea, I just love that*. When I asked this donor about his interest in cooking, he replied with, *I am bad at it- I mean, I think it's delish, but no one else will eat it*.

I really enjoyed getting to know this donor because he is such an engaging and goofy individual. I couldn't help but laugh and appreciate this donor's comfort level and his well developed and expressed sense of self. I will be curious to see where this donor's vibrant and adventurous character takes him in the future.