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## Donor # 4548 Interview Notes

This donor is a good looking man, classic American farm boy, striking blue eyes, straight brown hair, and good bone structure. He is someone you might turn to take a second look if you passed him on the street. When I met him he was wearing a blue striped button down shirt, brown leather shoes, khakis, and a baseball cap. To give you a better idea this donor describes his brother as resembling Matt Damon and said as a young man his grandfather looked like Jude Law. It seems that good looks might be an inheritable trait in this family.

I really like this donor. There is something very open and comfortable about the way he communicates. He is a little older than our typical donor and the way he comes across may be about that, he's older and is more confident in who he is as a person, a vibe that most 20 years olds don't have. We laughed a lot during the interview; it was an easy and friendly conversation. 4548 grew up on a dairy farm and worked on the farm throughout his childhood. His mom owned a health store and as a result he grew up conscious of alternative health care. 4548 has a happy person vibe, he is kind and thoughtful and very dedicated to his family and to keeping his word.

Donor 4548 has always been interested in politics even though no one in his family worked in politics. After spending some years as a carpenter, in his late 20's he realized that he didn't see himself doing that for rest of his life and he decided to go back to school to study political science. During this period of his life he explored and tried figuring out what he wanted to do- eg: being a foreign correspondent versus being involved in foreign policy. The donor opted for a career in foreign policy because he "wanted to make history, not write it." Once in school, he studied Arabic given the political context of the world during that time. At 27 he went to Lebanon because he felt that studying Arabic in an American University wasn't an effective way to become fluent, he needed to be immersed in the language and culture. Traveling to Lebanon was the first time the donor had left the U.S. and he remembers it as one of the best experiences of his life.

I imagine that this donor will be very successful in Washington, or wherever his career takes him. His good looks, charm, and direct honest "farm boy" nature will take him far. I admire that he decided to pursue a career in foreign policy without having a lot of experience or contacts within that field. I respect the donor's ambition and drive to work his way into the field seemingly without the help of personal favors or connections.

The donor's partner works at an NGO for urban housing. She has a Master's Degree in Urban Planning and enjoys helping people. She would like to go back to school and get a teaching certificate so she can teach 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders, she loves kids. Given they have one child and another on the way, both are conscious of the impact of 4548 being a sperm donor and helping others create families. 4548 seems genuinely happy to be able help others experience the joys of parenthood. Donor 4548 has a queer family friend who used a sperm donor; listening to her experiences prompted his decision to donate. He already believed that donating sperm was a good idea and meeting his friend's son helped him to realize it further. Meeting her son heavily influenced his decision to become a donor.

The donor understands that the Identity-Release<sup>®</sup> Program is very important to the kids that result from this process, and he often looks at his friend's son and imagines how important that option will be for him in the future. I am confident that he spent a great deal of thought and energy in making the decision to be an IDR donor and that he will be true to his commitment.

Interviewer: Danielle K.

Date: 3/24/11