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Donor # 4554 Interview Notes

Donor 4554 came to our interview wearing worn blue jeans (with one leg rolled up for bike riding), and a black zip-up hoody over a maroon t-shirt. His brownish/reddish hair is cut short and not too fussy. He has closely cut facial hair and perfectly straight, white teeth. As a child the donor said he was 'tow-headed' until around the age of 6. Under his facial hair I could see quite a few freckles, my guess is that freckles in the sun instead of tanning, but I did not ask him. The donor told me his friends say he looks like a younger Joaquin Phoenix and I agree that there is a slight resemblance. Donor 4554's face is longer and narrower and his hair is much lighter.

Family is a major force in the donors' life. His mother is one of 8 children - 2 girls and 6 boys, all of whom grew up to have large families of their own. Subsequently, 4554 has 20 cousins and the whole giant family gets together once a year around Christmas time. I asked if the family reunions were stressful for him and he laughed, saying it was actually really fun. He now lives away from where he grew up and often considers moving back just to be closer to the whole bunch.

The donor's childhood was great. His father met his mother while in the army, he was a soldier and she was hired as a Vietnamese linguist. Growing up his mother stayed at home and his father worked in public television and as a writer for network TV. As a child the donor got to visit his father at work and loved seeing all the sets and stages. He shared that he is very close to his brother. Their favorite hobbies are playing sports and video games. Whereas his sibling decided to stay put, donor 4554 decided to move for college, stating it was time to get away.

The donor's life now seems peaceful and happy, he enjoys cooking and baking and riding his bike. He is happily married and admits she is a better cook and baker – laughing with clarification that *it's not a competition*. The two ride bikes together frequently. They don't have children of their own yet and when I asked him how it would be for him if there were offspring resulting from his donations before having his own children and he said it would be ironic.

Donor 4554 isn't the sort of person who makes a big fuss about himself. It is clear that he is more concerned for the people he loves, especially his partner, who came up repeatedly in our conversation. I found nothing pretentious or self absorbed in his personality, just a delightfully sweet and mellow young man who loves the very simple things in life.