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Donor # 4597 Interview Notes

Donor 4597 is a super sweetie pie. I had the opportunity to sit with him on two different occasions and enjoyed both conversations tremendously. He has a mop of curly, wavy light brown hair, bright eyes and beautiful full red lips. His personality is effervescent and he appears genuinely excited about life. For our second interview Donor 4597 was dressed in dark denim skinny jeans, worn, dark green/blue vintage tennis shoes and a plain white tee under a checkered button up shirt. When I complimented him on his great hair- he said thank you and apologized for it being messed up by his bicycle helmet.

Donor 4597 grew up in Massachusetts with his parents and one younger brother. He talked about how even though there was history, culture and diversity in his home town that he experienced it as *being fake* and it left him *feeling segregated* in the middle of its progressiveness. After high school he moved to Michigan for 2 years then back home then out west. He moved to California specifically to go to college and compared to his home town and Michigan, he prefers it here. He says it's not only because of the weather, scenery, mountains, etc. but also because *being different doesn't seem to occupy people's minds in California, so the atmosphere here is comforting.*

Donor 4597 came out when he was 14 and although this caused friction between him and his parents, it did not affect his bond with his younger brother; they have a strong relationship and always have. Apparently they look just alike even though his brother is taller, bigger and a jock headed to the Ivy League. *He's a jock but he defies the stereotypes. I'm proud of him.* When he spoke of his relationship with his parents it was clear that he had given the relationship a lot of thought. Their struggles began at a young age and because of this he grew up practicing honest, upfront and open expression. As a consequence he is a better communicator and now has a very mature and honest relationship with his parents.

As a child the donor describes himself as an avid reader, social butterfly and an athlete who played soccer, baseball and ran track. He did well in school, got good grades and as far as his parents remember he was an easy child. He was also a very imaginative kid: *I had a whole other world in my head.* He's sure this is where his desire to be a writer was born. Donor 4597 wants to try his hat at all types of writing, be it a columnist, novelist or a technical writer. He is especially keen on leaning about technical writing saying that instead of just entertaining the reader- *being able to write a grant could actually change people's lives.*

Donor 4597 is mature and articulate for such a young man. I think all of his reading and writing has contributed to this immensely. He seems to know himself very well. He is one to keep an open mind about the future, trying not to restrict himself or his thinking. He likes to be free and available to do what feels right in the moment. He is clear that he does not necessarily like risk but that he doesn't shy away from it either, equally with conflict- he won't avoid it, nor does he seek it out like some people. He prefers being able to think things through 2 or 3 times, weighing the consequences and outcomes before he makes a final decision. It was my pleasure to get to know Donor 4597 during this very brief conversation and I think he a great addition to our program.