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Donor # 4232 Interview Notes

Donor 4232 struck me as someone who enjoys life and getting to know new people. He is easy to talk to and very polite. His voice is soft-spoken and gentle, yet gets louder and more animated when he tells a story about himself. Donor 4232 is well-groomed and conscious of current fashions. He wore clean jeans and a T-shirt, stylish shoes, a spider web patterned hoodie, and thick black glasses. He would fit in on the streets of San Francisco. I can see why people tell him that he resembles Rivers Cuomo, the lead singer of the band Weezer. He has thick brown hair with a well-defined widow's peak and a smile that extends to his eyes.

This donor has spent a great deal of his life involved in musical pursuits. He began playing the piano at age 7, by age 10 he was playing the saxophone, and then added the guitar in high school. Throughout his high school and college years donor 4232 has played in school symphonic bands and "rock bands," jammed with friends, and performed at coffee houses. He says that music has always come easy to him and plays a big part in his life.

Another area that came easily to the donor is performing. His mother encouraged him to be involved in a variety of activities, and as a dancer herself, she pushed him towards creative pursuits. During his junior year of high school donor 4232 gave up playing on the football team to join a theater troupe that taught junior high kids about abstinence. He told me that because he likes to be the center of attention, acting came naturally to him. In college this donor went out for every play that was produced during his time there.

The donor originally went to college to be a music teacher, but once there, he decided to take a philosophy course and fell in love with the ways it challenged him to think. He said that he's always been a thinker, and "always thought way too much about things." His philosophy professors broadened his mind and experiences, and helped him to view the world in new ways. This donor was raised in an extremely Christian environment and also went to a Christian college. He credits his philosophy teachers with challenging him and exposing him to see new ways of living. While still a spiritual person, the donor no longer identifies as Christian.

Business and entrepreneurial skills are this donor's new passion. While he has spent a lot of his life pursuing various performance arts, the donor told me that he actually really loves math and wished that he had focused more on business in his studies. As a child and young adult he was always coming up with new business adventures, from selling popcorn at his brothers little league games to selling cookies at his high school. He is currently working part time in construction and part time as a financial services agent. Donor 4232 really enjoys teaching people about how to be financially stable and feels like he is really helping people in this pursuit. He is looking forward to focusing more on business and plans to start his own company in the future.

I can tell that this donor really spends a lot of time thinking about things. He examines his action and choices and enjoys pondering questions. When I asked him basic questions about his life he really took the time to answer thoroughly and I could tell that he was reflecting on his experiences while describing them to me. It felt like the type of conversation I would have with a friend who has just come back from a long trip. It was a comfortable, ambling conversation full of insights and reflections. Donor 4232 shares himself very easily and said, "I would talk about myself all day if you wanted to." However, throughout our conversation he was aware of how much he was talking and checked in with me several times to see if I wanted him to stop. He seems aware of how much space he takes up with his words, and is cautious not to overwhelm someone.

What struck me most about this donor was his ability to reflect on his actions and really take time to think about what he puts his energy into. He originally joined the program to make some extra money but he soon began thinking about what he was doing, and how it is a very personal process that affects others in a positive way. At this stage in his life, the donor is really happy to be in helping people in every way he can. I was happy to hear that donor 4232 will be participating in the Identity-Release® Program as I think his reflective nature will lend well to possible interactions with future offspring. I also appreciate that this donor has a lot of divergent interests, from music and theater, to philosophy, to math and business. He seems to be well-rounded and successful in all of his pursuits.

Interviewer: Danielle Klinkow

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