

Dear Wendy and Ryan,

I've been on the Donor Sibling Registry website for the past couple of days and I am impressed. As a donor, I've always hoped to someday meet children born and introduce them to their biological siblings, nephews, nieces and grandparents if they so desired. I'm open to sharing as little or as much depending upon what the parents and/or children desire.

A few years back I was doing Google searches in an attempt to see if a parent or child might have been looking for me when I happened across your website, however I didn't pay for membership because I didn't see any parents or children searching for me. I was surfing uncharted emotional territory having nine children and eight grandchildren of my own and pondering the possible dynamics introduced into the family by lifting my anonymity.

I see so much potential for good and the enrichment that can be had in the lives of children born as a result of my decision to become a donor and your website might make it all possible, what a great blessing. I did find a match for my donor number, two girls from the same mother born in 1994 and 1996. They are close to my youngest son in age born in 1992. The mother of the girls is not currently an active member so I'm waiting to see if contact will occur.

I've browsed the website, viewed all the media videos and completed all the informational forms. I anticipate the mother and her daughters may need to process the match let alone the information and pictures I posted. I put as much information as I could for the time being. I'll update it from time to time as things come to mind which could be helpful to them.

I'm in no hurry and don't want to rush anything, they are in control of the experience. If and when they are ready I will be there for them as they wish. I don't want to complicate or interfere with their lives in any way. I only want to be involved to the extent I am needed in their lives. If I can bring to the girls and other children a sense of belonging, knowing where they came from and who they are, from the paternal side, I'm willing to do all that I can to help fill any voids and provide answers to their questions.

I donated for the purpose of providing the gift of family with the approval of my wife to bless the lives of others and now the Donor Sibling Registry experience has opened a whole new dimension to my own life and family for which I'm grateful to be a part. Just knowing there are two girls of whom I may be the biological father is exciting and brings a sense of joy and happiness. I'm glad I made the decision to become a lifetime member and wonder how my life might be now had I joined years ago.

I want you to know; when I became a donor I did so with my eyes wide open. I always felt a responsibility to any children born of my lineage, at the same time acknowledging it would be uncharted territory. I knew at some point the children and/or parents would want to know who they were and where they came from. Knowing those two questions help to answer the third and most important, where am I

going. One's lineage has such an impact in life as nurturing can only take you so far, it takes both to make you whole. Knowing where you come from, who you are and where you are going are essential to leading a successful and happy life, endowing power from within to overcome trials, challenges and obstacles, and to succeed and excel in the process of living, everything else is just stuff.

I'm an advocate of lifting the anonymity of donors because in doing so, donors (in my opinion) would be worthy of the children born of them. The gift of life is sacred not secret (donors should be known and children should know). The power of creation demands moral responsibility of the donor and inalienable rights for those created from it. Casual donations (anonymity) without regulation to provide some donor responsibility in the sense of better record keeping, updated profiles, health records and providing options for relationships in my opinion is negligent and detrimental not only to the children born, but to our society as a whole.

Donor databases need to be dynamic not static. Why would a donor want anything less for a donor child than what they would want for their own? The children are more than a man's sperm in a cup, whose value can never be measured monetarily. There needs to be more accountability in the industry and for donors in the best interests of the families and children affected by their decision to donate.

I believe appropriate regulation would draw better, more honest and responsible donors. Open records may discourage some from becoming a donor, but then those men may not be the best suited to help provide for the emotional and health needs of children born. Being a donor needs to become more than filling out a onetime form in the prime of life, providing samples for an easy buck and never having to think about or be responsible even in the smallest way for a child they helped create. Records need to be updated regularly to provide critical information, a responsibility the industry needs to be mandated to maintain and donors need to be contractually bound to provide this information as a provision to becoming a donor with possible legal action if health records and information is not provided.

I'm 55 years old, I'm not going to live forever and my health will continue to evolve until my eventual death. All children born of my lineage have claim to my health and profile information and there needs to be a way to capture those things pertinent to their happiness and health, no child should be denied regularly updated information because of being conceived through donation.

I have a wonderful and large family who I know will welcome the knowledge of additional siblings and would want to share their lives if the opportunity were to be presented. I don't have the intelligence of genius nor the looks of a movie star, what I do have is the capacity to love, to share where I came from, who I am and where I've been, with those for whom it may matter most. I do care about these children, their well being and happiness.

What you and Ryan have begun through consensual matching is helping to bridge gaps and inadequacies, eventually changing the industry for the better. Thank you for this forum to express my feelings and opinions for a subject I feel strongly

connected to, not by casual circumstance but by self determined choice and for the opportunities and possibilities for families to come together in a variety of ways through the Donor Sibling Registry.

Former Sperm Donor- Paul