



## **Donor 3234 Essay**

I was blessed to be the second child born into a loving family. Education was important in my family; both of my parents are professionals with advanced post-graduate educations. My sister and I both excelled at academics and completed advanced degrees of our own. My memories of growing up include many beautiful family Christmases and holidays. In particular I always enjoyed when the four of us, accompanied by the family dog, would hike into the woods, snow up to our knees, to cut down the Christmas tree. Invariably the dog would end up wrestling my sister and I while snow flew everywhere! My wife and I now repeat that family tradition every year with my own son and daughter. I don't think that there is anything that is quite so magical as sharing in those moments that will go on to become special family memories.

The importance of family has always had an effect on my career. It is very important to me, that I have the opportunity to spend time with my family, and that I participate in the children's lives every day as they grow up. On the other hand I feel that it's important to our family that I have the type of professional success that provides financial security, comfort and the freedom to discover and pursue passions. Boundaries, keeping me focused on work while at work, and on family while at home, helped me to recently achieve one of my major career goals when I was appointed a vice-president of one of the major Canadian Banks in my mid thirties.

As a parent, I think that the most important thing I can do is to provide my children with the tools and the opportunity to find happiness, contentment and love.

I wish the same three things for you and the family that you are building!