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Our America

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Racial Biography

1. What is my earliest memory of race?
 - a. Being from the area of Chicago, Illinois, the demographics are split up pretty evenly by race. Roughly 30% Latina, 30% African American, and 30% caucasian. Growing up a lot of us were not introduced to the idea that people were treated differently and discriminated against because of the color of their skin. Racial division in my hometown didn't severely begin until the BLM movement hit the Chicago area, which caused more segregation and hate than there was to begin with.
2. I haven't had several occasions where race has negatively affected me. There have been two specific situations that have in fact happened however. The first example happened with the Non-for profit organization that I run, "K cancer Baseball". One of the families that we support desperately needed money and resources to get back and forth from their five year old daughter's treatment. When I knocked on their door, they refused the \$400 gas card that we were providing, along with the other services, strictly because they wanted the resources to come from an African American individual. The second incident

came from my previous place of employment at Gener8or, in Chicago, Illinois. During the BLM riots I was walking to work right off Wacker Drive in downtown Chicago.

Being that I was white, a group of BLM activists followed me to my job and proceeded to break all of our companies' glass windows and doors, as an example of white oppression in the workplace. The irony was that our entire board of directors was of African American descent, so their actions were hurting their cause instead of inhibiting it.

3. I became racially conscious at a very young age. All the racial demographics were equally split in my area of childhood development. I was very aware of the pasts that each respective race has gone through. However, it is very important to find a balance of respecting each past, but also not developing a sense of entitlement.
4. The time period that I learned most about racial diversity and how each demographic feels life was my travel baseball team from the ages of 10-15. Our team was very diverse so it was a very good learning experience.
5. My self awareness process has been a continuous process. It has been very important, as stated previously, to learn about my past, but to also not develop a victim mentality and blame my current problems and deficiencies on someone else.
6. I don't have any major concerns about my racial past. While I've learned from my ancestors, I try to live in the present and make the best decisions that I can to set myself up for success.
7. I am very encouraged by my racial past. My family line has done a great job of breaking generational curses. They have been able to work hard to push themselves out of their

own comfort zones enabling their kin and future descendants to succeed and steadily accomplish more.

8. My purpose in life is to help myself grow as close to God as I can, and in turn help others around me do the same. The concept of justice is not Biblical and often gets misconstrued. Instead of pursuing justice and vengeance, I find it best to simply live my life one decision at a time, that is the only real way to collectively make the world a better and more inclusive place.