

# The Insider

Getting to know the PossAbilities Community

## The Creative Side of Technology

Whether he's in the community or on the PossAbilities campus, Brian always has his lap top in hand.

"I carry my computer at all times," said Brian.

And whenever he has a free moment, the computer is open and Brian can be heard rattling off numbers and codes.

"You have to understand the language," jokes Brian.

Brian started learning about computers in the late 80's. His dad worked at IBM and Brian found it interesting that he was programming computers.

"My dad didn't talk about his job much because it was top secret," said Brian. "But he inspired me to program."

At the age of seven, Brian started working in an IBM program called Advanced BASIC.

"I was taught how to draw a house with lines," said Brian.

He found the software easy to use and wanted to create a bigger project, a game.

"It was all text orientated," explained Brian. "My dad helped me write it. It was about a star ship and you had to move around the grid and destroy ships."

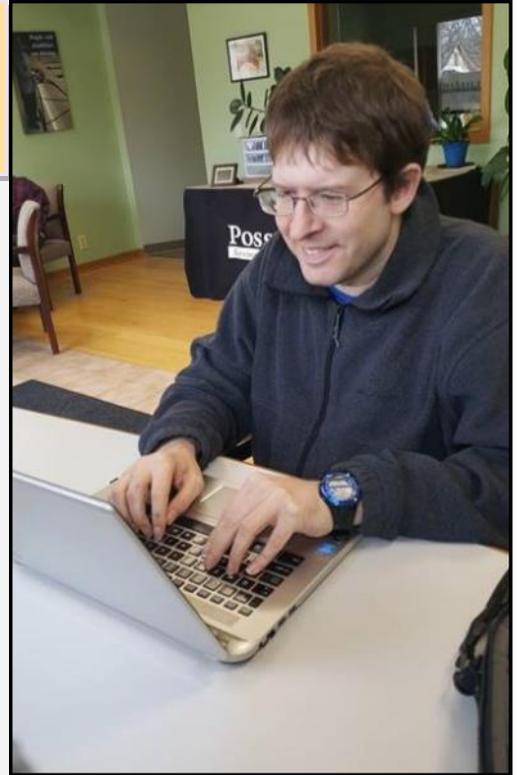
For 20 years, Brian created and re-created simple, text based games for his pleasure. However, in the late 2000's he became interested in video games and quickly started learning the codes to create his own.

"I'm working on creating a game," said Brian. "So far I have three types of characters and two enemies and I'm creating a menu system for the game."

Brian doesn't have a timeline of when the game will be finished or what the game will look like but that's what keeps him motivated.

"I like creating things," smiles Brian. "It's fun to be creative."

In addition, working on computers is just a hobby and a way for him to cool off after a long day of work at PossAbilities.



"I have no interest in a career with computers because it becomes boring and routine," said Brian. "It would no longer be interesting."

Brian has developed a strong passion for technology and thrives on his accomplishments. Day after day, he continues to troubleshoot codes, identify new programs and obtain computer knowledge that goes well beyond an ordinary user. Brian knows that all his time and effort behind the computer screen will pay off when he gets to sit back and enjoy his gaming creation.

## Motivated to Keep Working

Megan was ecstatic in 2013 when PossAbilities found her a job working in a local hair salon as a Laundry and Cleaning Attendant. However as the business changed so did the job duties and she was let go in the fall of 2016.

“Nova no longer had a job for me,” said Megan.

Unemployed but eager to get back into the community and work, Megan turned to PossAbilities Discovery team for help. Within a couple of months, Megan was employed at Serenity Couture as a Lead Laundry Attendant.

“I get tired at the end of the day,” said Megan.

With the new position, Megan is on her feet 27 hours a week making sure there are clean and warm towels for the clients at the Salon and Spa.

“I sort, wash and put away,” said Megan.

It’s hard work, but Megan loves it.

“I am happy here,” smiles Megan.

Not only does Megan work behind the scenes at Serenity Couture, she also gets to participate in their annual Trashion

Show, a night of art, fashion and fundraising.

“I like to work the crowd,” said Megan.

It’s a win, win for Megan who loves the make up, hair and beauty and now she gets to experience that every day thanks in part to PossAbilities.



## Advocating for a 4% Wage Increase

PossAbilities has been busy advocating for a 4% rate and wage increase for all direct support professionals. Among the many letters and phone calls to State Legislators, a group of PossAbilities staff members and participants traveled to the State Capitol to advocate and speak with Representatives and Senators.



*To learn more about the Best Life Alliance go to [www.PossAbilities.org](http://www.PossAbilities.org)*



# Advocating as a Team

PossAbilities held a joint press conference with Ability Building Center, Bear Creek Services, Hiawatha Homes, Cardinal of Minnesota, ARSYS, The Arc of SE Minnesota and Wing House to discuss the staff shortage for services provided to people with disabilities which has reached crisis proportions, threatening to close doors at residential homes and significantly reduce day service programs. To secure a positive future for people with disabilities, all the organizations discussed how passage of the Best Life Alliance bill this session is critical.

*Find the news stories on [www.PossAbilities.org](http://www.PossAbilities.org)  
(The Buzz Tab)*



# Wine & Roses and Craft Beer



*April 28, 2017*

*5:30pm*

*Canadian Honker Events*

*At Apache, Rochester*



**Come join us at this event!**

**RSVP [www.PossAbilities.org](http://www.PossAbilities.org)  
Or contact Stacy Shones  
[SShones@PossAbilities.org](mailto:SShones@PossAbilities.org)  
(507) 281-6116**



PossAbilities is a private, nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation committed to serving children and adults with disabilities through individualized, community based programs. We help people find and keep jobs, become engaged members of the community, contribute through volunteerism, and experience integrated social and recreational opportunities.

# What else have we been up to?

