Biography of Pip Stuart

Pip was born in Reading, Pennsylvania and spent his first five years there with his two younger siblings before moving to Southern California, where he would grow up and spend much of his adult life.

He was always into math and computer programming, solving Rubik's Cubes and playing Chess. He studied Information and Computer Science at the University of California at Irvine before having an illustrious career developing video games (mostly for Sony PlayStation platforms). Pip was a GNU/Linux nerd and proud Perl programmer. He was eccentric and intense. He would race Yamaha motorcycles and compete in international video game tournaments.

In 2009, Pip began experiencing Bipolar episodes for which he was forced into jails and mental hospitals in California. He experienced homelessness and lived out of a car for much of that year. After his third forced hospitalization in early 2010, his mother moved him out to Appleton, Wisconsin to be near family and to help establish some mental stability. After a falling out with his mother, Pip became homeless in Appleton and Homeless Connections (back when it was called the “Emergency Shelter”) provided him needed housing and facilitated successful application for Social Security Disability Insurance.

After a few years of general inability and inactivity, Pip took a Peer Specialist training course at NAMI of the Fox Valley (the National Alliance on Mental Illness). After completing the class, Pip was pleased to do his required 100-hour internship at Homeless Connections and then was hired on afterward. He is eager to assist the community of people who are experiencing homelessness in the Fox Valley, appreciative of the essential help he has received towards his own recovery.

Pip remains eager to learn how to better help others in their own recovery from mental illness or substance abuse disorder. He has passed the Wisconsin state certification examination for being a Peer Specialist. Pip has also been getting back into software development and has hopes of eventually returning to professional programming (maybe for non-profit organizations like Homeless Connections) when the time is right. He is always up for a game of Chess or a good chat.

