



# HELPING HANDS

MONKEY HELPERS FOR THE DISABLED, INC.

**ANNUAL REPORT 2015**

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## TRAVIS AND SIGGY: THE PARTNERSHIP YOU MAKE POSSIBLE

My name is Travis. I joined the Navy right out of High School to pursue my dream of becoming a Navy Seal. Unfortunately, I learned I had an undiagnosed injury in my shoulder that made it impossible for me to continue with the advanced training I had set my sights on.

I had my accident in New Orleans after being discharged from the Navy. Long story short, I was out with some buddies one night and I made some bad decisions. It could happen to anyone. I fell and broke my neck.

I was flown home to California to be closer to my family and to complete rehab—and, because of the extent of my injury, I had to move back in with my parents. You can imagine how difficult that was for me, so badly wanting to make it on my own, to have to rely on my parents to take care of me. I was heartbroken.

One day, my cousin introduced me to Helping Hands. I was so stoked about the idea of a service monkey! I decided right then and there that I was going to make this happen.

A couple of years later, the planets aligned. My sister was moving back to town and needed a place to stay, as did my brother. I started looking into

I find it amazing that people find it in their hearts to support a program that makes such an incredible difference in the lives of people like me.

houses and found a five bedroom house that was perfect for us and included a room for my future monkey! I rode 30 minutes in my wheelchair to meet the landlord and six months after we moved in, I applied to Helping Hands.

I had been in the chair for four years at this point, and I wanted to be able to spend time on my own, not having to ask people to do things for me or come over and hang out all the time to help me. I think I was most looking forward to the companionship that a monkey could provide me.

Then, in October 2015, I was matched with Siggy.

Our relationship is as magical and special as I always dreamt it would be. We are together every day while my sister is at work and Siggy provides so much distraction and entertainment.



What I realized is, no matter how much preparation and reading you do, every service monkey and each journey is unique.

Long before I had the privilege of spending my days

just monkeying around, I first had to come to terms with and acclimate myself to my new life. As I reflect on those darkest of days when I was first in the hospital and learned the extent of my injuries, I distinctly remember the day I first heard about Helping Hands. From that day forth, the program acted as a beacon of hope.

I find it amazing that people find it in their hearts

to support a program that makes such an incredible difference in the lives of people like me. That there are people, like you, who want to help me realize my dream of living independently, without even knowing me. Because of Helping Hands, I am exactly where I want to be in my life, given the circumstances. It is a dream come true for me and I am eternally indebted to people like you who make this work possible. I wish to convey how deeply grateful I am for your generosity and thank you sincerely from the bottom of my heart.

I had been in the chair for four years at this point, and I wanted to be able to spend time on my own, not having to ask people to do things for me or come over and hang out all the time to help me.



## MONKEY UPDATE: NICKY, ROBIN, & DIPPY

In 2015, Nicky (on far left) returned to our Monkey College after his recipient of 10 years, Robert, passed away. Though he returned under the saddest of circumstances, everyone in Boston was thrilled to see our old friend and Nicky quickly became best school buddies with Robin and Dippy.



## FROM THE TREASURER

2015 marked the completion of the second year of Helping Hands' five-year Strategic Plan and we experienced solid financial results. Our total unrestricted revenues and gains for the year were \$1,394,271 and total expenses (before depreciation and amortization) were \$1,376,602, resulting in an operating surplus and increase in net assets of \$17,669.

Our original budget for 2015 was a bit more aggressive, however, in April we lost our Director of Development and were without a DOD for the balance of the year. Because of the unexpected costs of the DOD search and the length of time it took to fill the position, we revised our forecast downward mid-year and postponed several expenses originally planned for 2015. In spite of our concerns, we ended the year with a strong year-end appeal and revenue from several new foundation grants.

One of the goals of the Finance Committee this year was to find a new auditor, one with deeper resources and expertise with non-profit accounting. In September we selected Smith Sullivan and Brown, a firm founded in 1993 that specializes in not for profit organizations (over 75% of their clients are non-profits). This audit and tax season has gone very smoothly and we are pleased with our new audit team's responsiveness, depth of knowledge and assistance on a variety of issues. As we continue to move forward with our Strategic Plan initiatives, we anticipate that SSB will be a valuable partner in helping us achieve our goals.

Our Financial Statements displayed in this annual report are in a new format this year, as recommended by our new auditor, including the reclassification of our net assets. As a result, we are not able to display our financial results compared to the prior year. However, we will be able to resume the comparison next year as we carry the new format forward.

Our investment portfolios were essentially flat over last year, reflecting the lackluster returns in the financial markets and our conservative investment strategy. The total value of our investment accounts at the end of the year was \$1,108,916, including \$275,000 of restricted funds. The Charles Evans Funds, which are restricted, provide a payout of 5% each year, as does the Earl Rogers Estate, which is now listed on the Financial Statement as "Beneficial Interest in Perpetual Trust." Overall our investments generated \$52,781 in interest and dividends, most of which was reinvested.

We anticipate that 2016 will be another year of progress for Helping Hands. We have a new Director of Development in place and have cash set aside for our capacity building and strategic plan activities, including planning for our new facility and gearing up for a capital campaign. With total assets of \$4,742,642 at year end and no long term debt except our mortgage, we continue to be in a strong financial position.

At the Monkey College, our service animals are taught using imitation-based, positive reinforcement training. (Monkey See, Monkey Do!)

## FINANCES

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

#### ASSETS

Current Assets	\$583,639
Net Property and Equipment	\$2,286,754
Non-Current Assets	\$1,872,249
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$4,742,642</b>

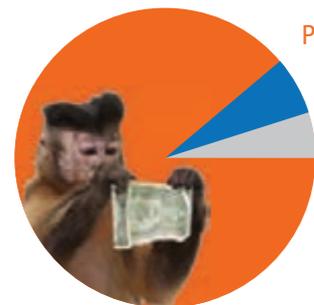
#### LIABILITIES

Current Liabilities	\$139,953
Long-term Liabilities (Mortgage)	\$717,189
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$857,092</b>

#### NET ASSETS

Unrestricted	\$3,186,607
Temporarily Restricted	\$173,047
Permanently Restricted	\$525,896
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$3,855,550</b>

<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$4,742,642</b>
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### STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

#### REVENUE, SUPPORT, AND RECLASSIFICATION

Unrestricted Support, Revenue and Reclassification	\$1,394,271
Less Restricted Revenues	(\$203,814)
<b>Total Support, Revenues and Reclassifications</b>	<b>\$1,190,457</b>

#### EXPENSES

Program	\$1,094,040
Administrative	\$118,686
Fund Raising	\$163,876
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,376,602</b>

<b>TOTAL CHANGES IN NET ASSETS</b>	<b>(\$326,169)</b>
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<b>NET ASSETS – BEGINNING OF YEAR AS RESTATED</b>	<b>\$4,211,719</b>
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<b>NET ASSETS – END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$3,885,550</b>
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In 2015 Helping Hands switched auditors and, at their suggestion, made changes to our accounting practices to more accurately reflect our financial position. These changes will allow us to better communicate our financial data moving forward. One of the most significant changes was restating our net assets for 2015, which included reclassification of funds. Since we are creating a new basis year, year over year comparisons will only be possible once we close 2016.



### MONKEY UPDATE: BERNICE

Bernice closed out 2015 fittingly by learning to close a cage door behind her! This task allows a recipient to ask a monkey to return to the cage and securely lock the door for mealtimes or more serious situations like a stranger entering the house, medicine dropping within reach, or anything a recipient deems risky. This task is easy to teach as we encourage the monkeys to associate positive things with their bedroom-like enclosures such as favorite toys and stuffed animals, food, and even television!



## CAPUCHIN CARETAKERS: A NEW NAME FOR A VERY SPECIAL GROUP

A very special thank you to our Capuchin Caretakers—donors who make an automatic monthly contribution to Helping Hands at an amount that works for them. Your steady support throughout the year means:

- The best care for every monkey in training at The Monkey College, including optimal nutrition, individualized training, ample play time, and regular veterinary check-ups.
- Ongoing support for recipients across the country throughout the lifetime of their service monkey placement. Including being able to contact a Helping Hands trainer at any time, day or night.
- Lowered administrative costs so more of your donation goes to help recipients and our monkey helpers.

Helping Hands is pleased to count our Capuchin Caretakers among our most ardent supporters. You make a difference every day in the lives of our recipients and monkey helpers.

*If you'd like to join this special group of supporters and become a Capuchin Caretaker, you can learn more and sign up securely online at [monkeyhelpersdonate.org/monthly](http://monkeyhelpersdonate.org/monthly).*

## MEMBERS 2015

Anonymous (6)  
Stacy and Bjorn Aannestad  
Joanna Beckes  
Amy Bruno  
Bob Comtois  
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Jason Fairchild  
Nancy Langworthy and

Harry Feirman  
Douglas Felt  
Laura Galli  
Barbara Goldberg  
Marcy Ashley Gray  
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Winnie Hill  
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Suzanne Short  
Ben Smoot  
Camille Stanley  
Richard Steelman  
John Yang  
Ms. Marjorie Yeaton Wellek

The average length of a placement is 7-12 years. Many monkeys are placed more than once in their careers.

## SIMIAN SOCIETY: RECOGNITION OF SPECIAL GIFTS

Key: +Board Member ~Recipient

The Simian Society is a new name to recognize donors who choose to leave a gift to Helping Hands in their will. Your decision to make a donation as part of your estate plans has a far-reaching positive effect on the work we do every day.

Leaving a gift in your will is an easy way to give back and still make sure you're able to provide for yourself and your family throughout retirement. Helping Hands is proud to recognize the generosity of our current Simian Society members, listed below:

Lydia Ainsley	Philip Bloedorn
Craig Cook ~	Elena Damien
Mary Elizabeth Durfee	Donna Lee Graham
Marya Hunsicker	Susan and Brad Keyes +
Evelyn and Stephen Kowalewski	Joan LeBel
Carol Lewis	Jean A. Michalko
Ronald Olsen	Joan Ordy
Joan Pelnar	Malinda Sanders
Lynn Trimby +	

As some of our most committed supporters, Simian Society members receive special communications from Helping Hands throughout the year, providing them with an insider's perspective. And, beginning in 2017, we look forward to hosting Simian Society members at a yearly luncheon.

If you have already included Helping Hands in your will—or are interested in learning more about making a gift—we'd like to make sure you are recognized as a Simian Society member. Please contact Angela Lett, Director of Development and Communication at [angelal@monkeyhelpers.org](mailto:angelal@monkeyhelpers.org) or at 617-787-4419 x114 so that we may officially welcome you into the Simian Society.



### MONKEY UPDATE: SADIE

With the phone support and advice of a trainer, Sadie worked closely with not only her recipient Karen, but also Karen's husband, to transfer more and more of her tasks learned in Boston to her placement home in Arizona.

## WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE

each and every donor who supported us in 2015. Your gifts enable us to create and support priceless partnerships throughout the United States. Thank you for providing new beginnings to our recipients every day.

We also appreciate all the federal, state, local, and municipal employees who make their donations through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC #11196) or Independent Charities of America.

## CORPORATE AND FOUNDATION GIVING

Thank you to the foundations, corporations, and organizations whose support was integral to our work this year.

### \$100,000+

Johnson Family Foundation  
The Powell Foundation  
The Robmar Foundation  
The Bernice and Milton Stern Foundation

### \$25,000+

C. Graham Berwind, III  
The William Bingham Foundation  
Burns & Levinson LLP  
The Michele and Agnese Cestone Foundation

### \$10,000+

The Helen W. Bell Charitable Foundation  
Bushrod H. Campbell and Adah F. Hall Charity Fund  
Copeland Family Foundation, Inc.

The Lore Kann Foundation  
The Montei Foundation  
The Rands Foundation  
Joan K. Sexton Foundation

### \$5,000+

The Charles Evans Foundation  
The Fessenden School  
The Gordon Family Foundation  
Holland & Knight  
Keyes North Atlantic  
Laura J. Niles Foundation  
Rockland Trust  
The Eleanor P. Stuart and Mary C. Stuart Family Foundation  
Whitney Young Children's Foundation

### \$1,000+

The Big Wood Foundation  
Bresky Foundation  
W. Y. Campbell Family Foundation  
Frederick V. Davis, Jr. Living Trust  
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Emerson Process Management  
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Louise Pfister Charitable Foundation, Inc.  
The L. E. Phillips Family Foundation, Inc.  
Pomeroy & Co., Inc.  
The John A. Scileppi Foundation  
Special People in Need  
State Street Bank

### \$500+

Adaptive Control Systems, Inc.  
American Veterinary Medical Association  
The Boston Foundation  
The Jacob Burns Foundation, Inc.  
Casa del Rey Mexican Restaurant  
Migneault Electric  
Neuberger Berman LLC  
Thoughtforms  
  

### \$250+

American Express Company Employee Giving Program  
JSRM Foundation  
The Lagunitas Brewing Co.  
Melville Capital  
Senior Aerospace Metal Bellows  
Serenade Chocolatier  
Silicon Valley Community Foundation/Standard Insurance  
Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine  
Xaverian Brothers High School

Helping Hands is the only organization in the world dedicated to training and placing capuchin monkeys with people living with paralysis or other mobility impairments.



## INDIVIDUAL GIVING

Key: \*Capuchin Caretaker/Monthly Donor +Board Member ^Employee ~Recipient # Foster Family

Every year, individual donors show their commitment to improving the lives of people living with disabilities by making a donation to Helping Hands. Thank you to everyone who made a gift this year in support of our work.

### \$25,000+

Combined Federal Campaign Donors  
Judi Hindman and Frank Odell #

### \$10,000+

The Estate of Georgine Darcy  
The Estate of James Jatras  
Mary Lincoln/The M.J. Surgala Trust  
Dr. William and Mrs. Suzanne Payne  
Earl Rogers Trust  
Joanne and Richard Wightman #

### \$5,000+

Anonymous (2)\*  
Susan and Brad Keyes + # \*  
Robert Stern +

### \$1,000+

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Wendy Appel  
Sharon Bazarian and James McDermott  
Gregory S. Bednarz  
Joseph and Barbara Bruno  
Barbara and Roger Bruttomesso  
John A. Cataldo Fund  
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Eugene Dixon  
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Kimberly and Dane Dwyer  
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Andrea and Joseph Finnerty  
Linda and Jeff Frack  
Evelyn Furse and Rusty Dassing  
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Bronwyn and Jeffrey Lamont  
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Dorajan and Michael Littrell  
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Brenda Tanger  
Eike and Robert Traina  
Lynn and Ross Trimby +  
Brian Vaughan and Ruth McKee  
Louise and Michael Wilmot #  
Patty Wolfe  
Jane Yusen +

### \$500+

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Cathleen Oken  
Kathy and David O'Leary  
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Julie and Alan Solarz +

Nancy Stegens  
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Gary Vilchick  
Katharine Weber  
Natalie and Royce Wiley  
Betsy and Donald Wischart  
Georgiann Zaglakas

### \$250+

Anonymous (3)\*  
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April and Rich Bradshaw  
William Brady  
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Joanne Casper and Wendell Colson  
Pimontip and Antonino Catalano  
Kevney and Primus Chalon  
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Marlo Wilson  
Barbara and Cary Wolinsky  
Patricia and Jonathan Woodard  
John Yang \*  
Christopher Young  
Ms. Mary Kay Young ~  
Jonathan Yusen

Capuchin monkeys have an average lifespan in the wild of about 20 years. The monkeys in the Helping Hands program typically live to be 30-35 years old.

## IN KIND

Donations of services, materials, food, and beverages helped support special projects and general operations throughout the year. We are extremely grateful to all of the individuals and establishments who made these generous contributions.

Laura Barrasso	Ketel One
Bidding for Good	Kevin Lewis Design
Bryan Cave, LLP	Klinkerbrick Winery
The Columbus Hospitality Group	Lagunitas Brewing Company
Lisa Flores	Peterson Party Center
Patrick Gan	Robinson & Cole, LLP
Halliday Construction	MS Walker
Holland & Knight	Winston Flowers

## GIFTS MADE IN MEMORY OF

Donations were made in memory of the following people:

Michael Burnich	Colin McLeod
John P. Cassata	William G. Miller, Jr.
Kathleen A. Child	Shirley Mullen
Helen Ellingwood	Jerry Nottebrok
Barbara Fields	Pierre Raymond
Anthony Gillcrist	Michael Reed
John Gillcrist	Earl A. Rogers
Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Gonzales	Helen Sterling
Kathy and Tom Hefner	Napoleon Wilensik
Ida May Lipsett	Judy Zappia
Frederick Mazer	

*We have attempted to be as accurate as possible in listing our donors. While we do not have space in this publication to print the names of every single contributor, we remain forever grateful for every gift of every size to Helping Hands. Please accept our sincere apologies if there are any errors or omissions and let us know so that we can correct our records.*

## GIFTS MADE IN HONOR OF

Donations were made in honor of the following people:

William Brady	Sabina Li
Mari Brady	Methodist Charlton Lab
Grady Brooks	Morgan and Jon McCarthy
Simon Brown	Ashley and Colin McCarthy
Elise Burgess	Nathan Paulnock
Frederick Claus	Alison S. Payne and Douglas Leenhouts
Wendy Cobb	Julian Pechet
Elaine and Matthew Connolly	Harold Potter, Esq.
Nancy and Kent Converse	Lucas Purzycki
Craig Cook	Muriel Reilly
John Cora	Paul Reiss
Marissa Cuda	Ellen Rogers
Bruce Dieter	Bob Schwaid
Anne Dissinger	Erin Splaine
Sue Drake	Bernice Stern
Kate Ewald	Robert Stern
Andrea Finnerty	Susan Strong
Ty Foster	Ned Sullivan
Alex Gartman	Karen and Joseph Tucceri
Stephany Glassing	Elizabeth Turi
Robert Gorman	Dava Silva and Jon Vargosko
Stephen Harding	Helen Wentzel
Pamela Helling	Louise and Michael Wilmot
Judy Hetherington	Ilana Wulf
Judi Hindman	Jane Yusen and Richard C. Norris
Bob House	Kate Zabinsky



## MONKEY UPDATE: PHOEBE

When Phoebe was matched in 2015 with an applicant living in New York, she and her trainer Jessica worked daily on learning how to stretch a long straw from a camel-pack that holds water on the back of a wheelchair around to a person's mouth. This simple task makes a huge difference in our recipients' daily lives.



## OUR MISSION

Established in 1979, Helping Hands: Monkey Helpers for the Disabled is a national non-profit 501(c)3 organization that raises and trains capuchin monkeys to provide daily assistance to people living with spinal cord injury or other mobility impairments. Helping Hands supports each service monkey and his or her human partner during their many years together through interactive mentoring of the placement, and close supervision of the monkey's behavioral, nutritional, and veterinary needs. Relying on private contributions, Helping Hands provides these specially trained service animals and their lifetime support free of charge to our recipients.



CFC # 11196

# HELPING HANDS

MONKEY HELPERS FOR THE DISABLED, INC.

541 Cambridge Street, Boston, MA 02134  
[www.monkeyhelpers.org](http://www.monkeyhelpers.org) | 617.787.4419