

**HELPING  HANDS**  
MONKEY HELPERS

**2019**  
Annual  
Report



## Helping Hands Staff

**Angela Lett**  
*Executive Director*

**Alison Payne**  
*Director of Monkey Care*

**Joshua Claudio**  
*Director of Development*

**Kim Gomez**  
*Placement Trainer*

**Allyson Migneault**  
*Placement Trainer  
Veterinary Technician*

**Eleanor Montgomery**  
*Development &  
Communications Assistant*

**Joe Murphy**  
*Husbandry Assistant*

**Jessica Raider**  
*Placement Trainer*

**Natalie Shelton-May**  
*Placement Trainer,  
Manager of Husbandry Staff  
and Volunteer Development*

**Brittany Sprague**  
*Placement Trainer  
Veterinary Technician*

## Our Mission & Vision

**Established in 1979, Helping Hands: Monkey Helpers for the Disabled, Inc. 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 free of charge to our recipients.**

*Photo: Judge enjoys the sunshine during playtime.*



Dear Friends,

Thank you for helping us celebrate 40 years of providing people with increased independence through the gift of a service monkey. Your support is the reason we have been able to provide a monkey helper to so many people—free of charge. What started out as a research project to answer the question, “If we can train dogs to help the blind, could we train monkeys to help people who cannot use their hands?” has become a nonprofit serving people throughout the United States. Thank you for making all of this possible!

Our monkeys have aged along with our organization. In the wild, capuchin monkeys live 20-25 years. Due to the excellent care Helping Hands’ monkeys receive throughout their lives, our monkeys live 30-40 years. In fact, our oldest monkey, Becky, just turned 38! And we find ourselves encountering new challenges as we care for our aging monkey population.

Aging capuchin monkeys have health concerns similar to humans, including diabetes, arthritis, and stomach ailments that require specialized diets. And, like many senior citizens, we see them slowing down a bit, spending more time lounging in the sun, and just wanting to spend more time with their friends—monkey and human!

When Helping Hands started in 1979, the original idea was that once monkeys reached the point of retirement, they would return to living with foster families throughout the country. Many laws have changed since then regarding the ownership of exotic animals, and if our monkeys are not in active service to an individual, they are classified as privately owned pets and are illegal in many states. With fewer people able to care for our retired monkeys in their golden years, we are now caring for most of our retired monkey population at The Monkey College in Boston.

Fortunately, we have people like you who understand the value and service that these monkeys have provided to so many throughout their lives. I know that you will join me, our staff, and the Board of Directors in wanting to ensure we continue to provide the highest level of care for these very special monkeys throughout the remainder of their lives. And I hope you enjoy learning more about our retired monkeys in this year’s Annual Report.

Thank you for all you do for our recipients and service monkeys!

With deepest gratitude,

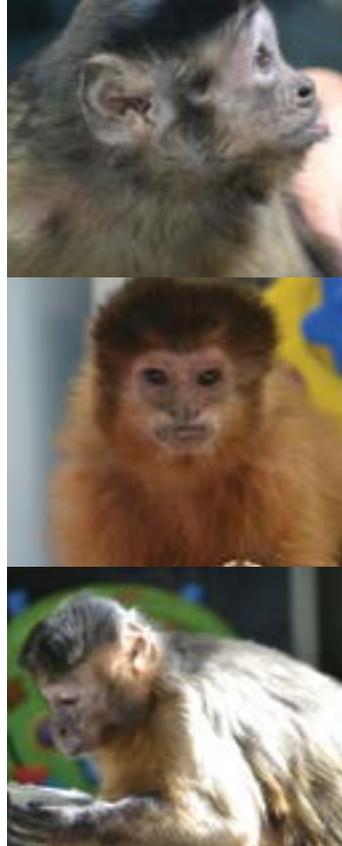
**Angela Lett**  
*Executive Director*

**Robert Sanders**  
*Chair of the Board of Directors*



## Monkeys in Aftercare

This year’s annual report is dedicated to our retired monkey helpers. Without our service monkeys, we could not accomplish the important mission of helping adults with spinal cord injuries and other mobility impairments live more independent and engaged lives. Many of our monkey helpers have transitioned from active service to aftercare due to their age or health related reasons. Your support in 2019, empowered us to provide the best care possible to these special monkeys that have given so much to so many over the years and are now living out their golden years at The Monkey College.



## Monkey Helpers in Retirement Numbers:

**51**  
Monkeys Retired from Service

**29**  
Monkeys Retired from Service Living at The Monkey College

**38**  
Age of the Oldest Retired Monkey Helper

**87,600 hours**  
or  
**10 years**  
Average Amount of Hours Dedicated by a Retired Monkey Helper to help a recipient



**Photo:** Monkey helpers in aftercare spend their days relaxing with their trainers and playing with their monkey friends.

**Photo:** William and Suzanne Payne with their daughter, Alison, at Festivale 2019. Credit: Dawn Kubie Photography.

## Meet the Paynes

William and Suzanne Payne became involved with Helping Hands in 1996 and have been in love with the mission and work ever since. They give because each Helping Hands service monkey provides a recipient additional ease in their home life and their caregiver the opportunity to leave the home knowing that the recipient is in good hands. The Paynes admire that each service monkey matched with recipients is free of charge and supported for life, emphasizing that, “if you need a service monkey and qualify, then you will get that monkey and all the service and support that goes with it.” William and Suzanne are a family of animal lovers and they admire the devotion of staff in ensuring that our service monkeys have exceptional care through all stages of their lives.

*A special thanks to William and Suzanne Payne for their generous continued support of our mission and work.*

## Meet Sadie

For more than 40 years, our service monkeys have helped over 160 adults with spinal cord injuries and other mobility impairments live more independent and engaged lives. Each monkey helper dedicates a significant amount of their lives to bring happiness to others. This dedication translates to years of loyalty and support. At some point in a monkey helper's career, he or she transitions into our retirement program. Many of our service monkeys begin aftercare due to age or health considerations. Donor support allows Helping Hands to provide the best possible care to service monkeys that transition to retirement.

Each monkey helper is special and unique and has an amazing story. One such monkey helper is Sadie.

Over Sadie's career as a service monkey, she has been placed with recipients in Massachusetts, Wisconsin, California, and Arizona. Her career is unique as she has been an ideal candidate for continued placement because of her sweet personality and loyalty. Once placed, she shows an incredible amount of loyalty to her recipient. Alison Payne, Director of Monkey Care and Sadie's personal trainer, says, "Once she trusts you, she puts 100% of her trust in you and it's such a gift." Sadie's wonderful energy and loving personality allowed her to give her recipients the gifts of hope and companionship while helping them with daily tasks.

After 16 years of service, in 2016, our training staff determined that it was time for Sadie to transition into our aftercare program. Today, Sadie is living out her golden years at The Monkey College. Since she returned to Helping Hands her daily routine has included socializing with her monkey friends and spending quality time with our trainers. Thanks to your financial support, Sadie has access to the best veterinary care and receives optimal nutrition. Helping Hands' staff, including her trainer Alison, are delighted to have Sadie in the aftercare program where she is spoiled and cared for every day. Although now retired, Sadie still wants to give love. You will often find her hugging trainers and she gives the best hugs.

Sadie's wonderful story is only possible because of your continued financial investment in the care and well-being of retired monkey helpers. Donor support ensures that Helping Hands continues to provide the best quality of life during a monkey helper's retirement. Like Sadie, all our service monkeys have brought joy, happiness, and support to many individuals in need. Thanks to you, they can rely on our continued support and care.

**"After working at Helping Hands for almost two decades and seeing first-hand the difference these monkeys made, and continue to make, in the lives of those with disabilities, I can think of nothing I would rather do in the upcoming years than spoil these amazing animals with dignity, respect, and immense affection as they reach their twilight years."**

**- Alison Payne, Director of Monkey Care**



**Photo:** Sadie snuggles her trainer, Alison, after bath time.

## Financial Summary

Helping Hands marked its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2019. Much has changed for the organization since we first began, but we remain committed to caring for our monkeys and helping people with mobility impairments. A strong financial position is essential for providing a solid foundation for these efforts.

Fiscal Year 2019 represents the first full year in our new fiscal year, October 1 through September 30. As reported last year, the Board made the decision to change to a new fiscal year in order to facilitate planning and forecasting, as nearly 40% of our donations come in the last quarter of the calendar year.

Our total revenues and gains for the fiscal year were \$1,646,393. This included over \$500,000 in contributions and pledges for our Capital Campaign for renovations for our building. Total functional expenses, excluding depreciation, were \$1,305,494, resulting in a surplus of \$340,899. Our expenses this year included over \$118,000 in pre-development costs for the renovation project, including fees for architects and attorneys. At one point during the year, we drew \$40,000 from our Line of Credit due to the timing of cash flows. That borrowing has now been paid off. We maintain a bank Line of Credit as part of our cash management in order to accommodate the variability of our revenue stream.

We continued to make progress on our building renovation project throughout the year. Our goal is to create a facility that is better suited for our increasing number of retired service monkeys and to upgrade the outdated building systems. We now have a set of design drawings, a pricing estimate and permitting to move forward. We have already received several pledges for the capital campaign for this project and expect to ramp up campaign activity later this year. In addition, we are starting discussions with banks to explore and identify other sources of financing.

Helping Hands is fortunate to have access to investment portfolios that support our programs. Our unrestricted investments at Neuberger Berman are available for any reason approved by the Finance & Audit committee. At the end of September, these funds had a value of \$672,659. Our restricted investments, which include the Charles Evans Funds and the Earl Rogers Trust, had a combined value of \$541,437 at the end of September. Helping Hands is the beneficiary of these trust funds and receives annual distributions of 5% of the market value of the investments, which are used for operating expenses.

Fiscal year 2020 will be challenging as we move forward on the building renovation project while continuing to support our current recipients and service monkeys. We are grateful to our donors, who for more than 40 years, have made this life-changing work possible

## Financials

### Financial Statement

#### ASSETS

Current Assets	\$ 239,940
Net Property and Equipment	\$ 1,812,411
Non-Current Assets	\$ 1,845,668
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 3,898,019</b>

#### LIABILITIES

Current Liabilities	\$ 254,503
Long-term Liabilities (mortgage)	\$ 303,185
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 557,688</b>

#### NET ASSETS

Without Donor Restrictions	\$ 2,151,148
With Donor Restrictions	\$ 1,189,183
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 3,340,331</b>

<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$3,898,019</b>
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### Statement of Activities

#### REVENUE, SUPPORT, AND RECLASSIFICATION

Without Donor Restriction	\$ 1,144,666
With Donor Restriction	\$ 501,727
<b>Total Revenue, Support, and Reclassification</b>	<b>\$ 1,646,393</b>

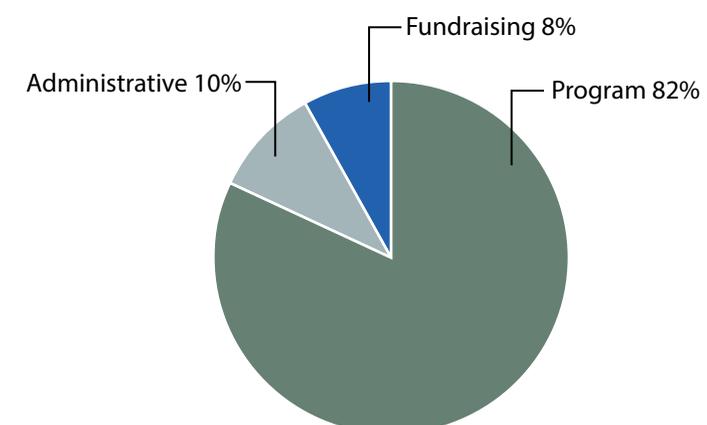
#### EXPENSES

Program	\$ 1,125,085
Administrative	\$ 134,979
Fundraising	\$ 108,566
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 1,368,630</b>

<b>NET ASSETS – BEGINNING OF PERIOD</b>	<b>\$3,062,568</b>
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<b>NET ASSETS—END OF PERIOD</b>	<b>\$3,340,331</b>
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### Expenses By Category



# Thank You to Our Supporters

**Helping Hands: Monkey Helpers would not be able to accomplish its mission and work without the financial investment of supporters. Our success is your success. Because of your continued friendship, we can provide the best care possible for our monkey helpers in retirement and provide recipients in need with increased independence and hope. We extend our thanks to the individuals, foundations, and corporations that renewed their support in 2019.**

## \$100,000+

Foundation Robmar

## \$25,000 - \$99,999

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Judi Hindman\* and Frank Odell #  
Johnson Family Foundation  
Liberty Mutual Foundation  
The Michele and Agnese Cestone Foundation  
The Montei Foundation

## \$10,000 - \$24,999

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Helen W. Bell Charitable Foundation  
Joan K Sexton Foundation  
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The Lore Kann Foundation  
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Suzanne J. and William D. Payne  
The Powell Foundation  
The Rands Foundation  
Rockland Trust - Blue Hills Charitable Foundation  
The Spark Fund  
Jane Yusen\*

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The Eleanor P. Stuart and Mary C. Stuart Family Foundation  
Miranda Finger  
Linda and Jeffrey Frack#  
The Fuller Foundation  
Gordon Family Foundation  
The Hamilton Company Charitable Foundation  
Robin Holland

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MERGE Boston  
Alison S. Payne^ and Douglas Leenhouts\*  
The Vivian Leigh Forde Trust  
Whitney Young Children's Foundation  
Joanne and Richard Wightman\*

## \$2,500 - \$4,999

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## Capuchin Caretakers

A special thank you to our Capuchin Caretakers—donors who make a monthly recurring contribution to support our programs and services.

Your steady support throughout the year means:

- The best care for every monkey in retirement, in training, or awaiting placement, including optimal nutrition, individualized training, ample playtime, 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 would like to join this special group of supporters and become a Capuchin Caretaker, you can learn more and sign up securely at: [monkeyhelpersdonate.org/monthly](http://monkeyhelpersdonate.org/monthly).

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## Simian Society: Recognition of Special Gifts

The Simian Society recognizes donors who choose to leave a gift to Helping Hands in their will. Your decision to make a donation as part of your estate plan provides a legacy for the work we do every day.

Leaving a gift in your will is an easy way to give back and still make sure you are 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:

Philip Bloedorn	Trudy Harrison	Margaret Opsata
Trish and Bruce Campbell	Marya Hunsicker	Joan E. Ordy
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As some of our most committed supporters, Simian Society members receive special communications from Helping Hands throughout the year that provide them with an insider’s perspective and are invited to a yearly luncheon.

If you have already included Helping Hands in your will—or are interested in learning more about legacy gifts—we would like to make sure you are recognized as a Simian Society member. Please contact Joshua Claudio, Director of Development, at [joshuac@monkeyhelpers.org](mailto:joshuac@monkeyhelpers.org) or (617) 787 – 4419 x113, so that we may officially welcome you into the Simian Society.

Photo: Koko enjoys some oatmeal – a popular snack at the Monkey College.



## Facebook Fundraisers

Thank you to everyone who has held a Facebook Fundraiser on our behalf! More than 120 people raised more than \$13,000 during 2019—and we’ve seen even more support in 2020.

Facebook Fundraisers are an effective way for you to share the work we do here at Helping Hands. Friends give because of friends! If you’d like to find more creative ways to support Helping Hands, visit: [monkeyhelpers.org/support-us/diy-giving](https://monkeyhelpers.org/support-us/diy-giving)

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*Capuchin monkeys have an average lifespan of about 20 years in the wild. The monkeys in the Helping Hands program typically live to be 30-40 years old and we provide care and support for them their entire life.*

Photo: Retired monkey helper, Koko grooms her playmate, TC.

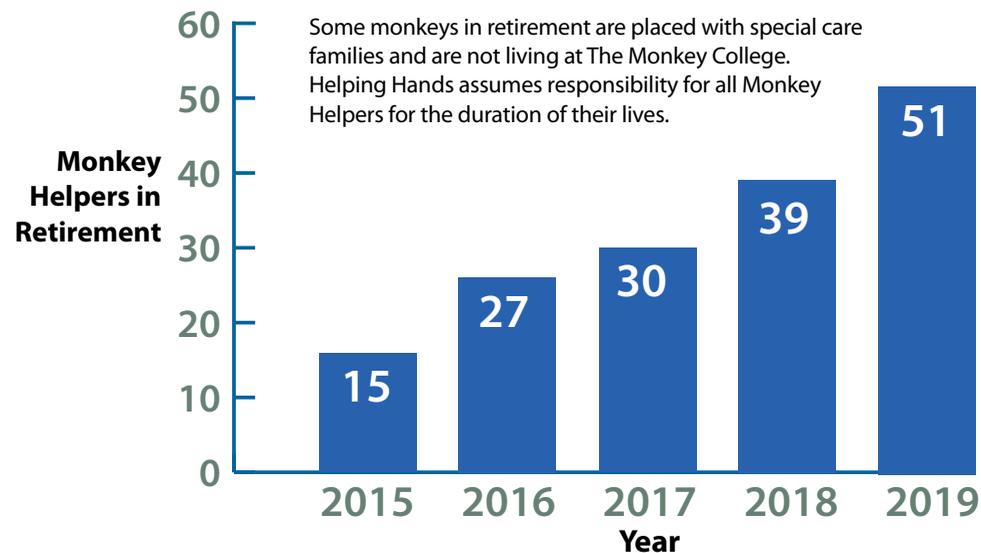


**Photo:** MaryKay with her Monkey Helper, Amy. Capuchin monkeys can use their dexterous hands and fine motor skills to assist with daily in-home tasks such as turning pages, scratching itches, retrieving dropped objects, and repositioning limbs on a wheelchair.

### Monkey Helpers in Retirement Costs:

- Total cost of aftercare program, **\$267,256**
- Average cost to care for one retired monkey each year, **\$9,000**
- Average cost to house one retired monkey each year, **\$441**

### Monkey Helpers in Retirement:



**Photo:** The Thomas and Agnes Carvel Foundation Center is a highly unique, carefully designed, comprehensive facility – also dubbed The Monkey College since it's where many of our service monkeys live and learn!

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