



Greetings from the Executive Director

Happy New Year.

For Helping Hands Monkey Helpers, the year ahead is exciting as we continue to fulfill our mission of assisting those living with physical disabilities. During 2022 you will begin to hear more about the work we are doing with innovative technology and how it will be assisting those living with physical disabilities.



As January unfolds, we are currently working with some new technology partners to find practical solutions to assist with the daily living needs for those living with spinal cord injuries, multiple sclerosis and other physical disabilities. What does that mean you ask? Helping Hands is fortunate to be collaborating with technology companies, universities, entrepreneurs as well as new recipients to experiment with robotics and virtual reality that will aid individuals living with a physical disability.

Like when our founders first began training the capuchin monkey to be a non-human personal assistant to give an individual and their caregiver more independence, the aim of the various innovative technologies is to give an adult more independence and empower them to live a life they want to live. Moreover, many of the new technologies are being developed with the caregiver in mind – giving a primary caregiver more time to do what they need to do and more quality and personal time to spend with the person they love.

What about the monkeys you ask? All our monkeys whether still in service, in our special care/foster homes, or at our Monkey Living Center in Boston are being well cared for each day. Those still in service are providing valuable tasks as well as companionship to their human partners. Our post service monkeys in special care homes or at the Monkey Living Center are getting the very best veterinary care possible. All of our capuchins are the inspiration for the work we continue to do as we explore new technologies that will continue to provide quality of life services now and in the future to those we serve.

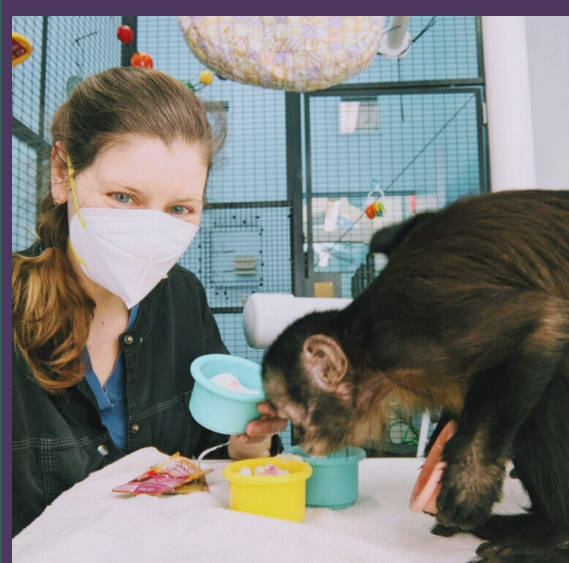
Each month you will learn more specifics about our new projects, meet new recipients and new collaborators. I am delighted that I will have the opportunity to share our future as it unfolds with you over the next year.

Sincerely,

Diane S. Nahabedian

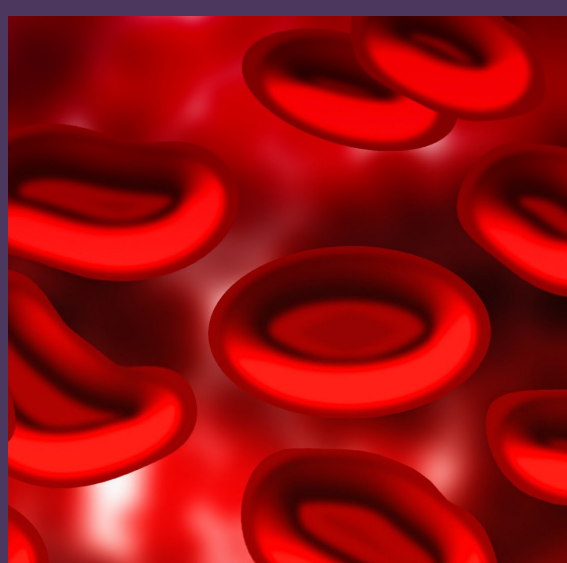
Diane S. Nahabedian Executive Director

What happens when there is 2-3 feet of snow?



We are predicted to get 2-3 feet of snow here in Boston this weekend. So what does that mean for our monkeys? Our dedicated monkey care team will make sure that all of our capuchins are safe, warm, and well taken care of as the storm passes. We have extra blankets and heaters at the ready, and there's nothing more fun than bringing in fresh snow to play with - and make "snow cones" with! Be sure to follow us on Social Media (Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter) to see what we get up to during the storm.

January is National Blood Donor Month



Did you know that there is a worldwide blood shortage?

While this is not a regular message to come from us, we urge anyone who can to visit a local blood drive and donate. So many who need emergency transfusions rely on the kindness of blood donors.

Please consider being a blood donor today.

Birthday Round-up at the Monkey Living Center!

Please join us in wishing our monkeys who were born in January a very Happy Birthday!

Jerri, Buttons, and Vicki!



Jerri



Buttons

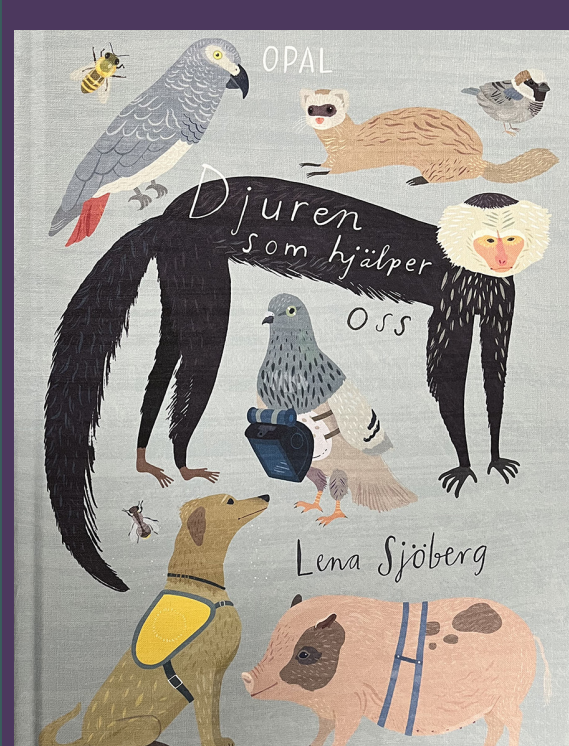


Vicki

Helping Hands featured in a children's book in Sweden!

We were contacted a while back by an author and illustrator in Sweden who was working on a children's book about all the different animals who helped people around the world. She sent us this amazing book with these gorgeous illustrated pages about capuchins!

A huge thank you to Lena for this beautiful tribute to the work our monkeys have done for the past 43 years.



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Helping Hands: Monkey Helpers

