



Greetings from the Executive Director

Dear friends,

We are working diligently on the transition of Helping Hands: Monkey Helpers (HH) from serving those living with disabilities using service animals to implementing innovative technologies. There are two key things to remember as we go through this transition. First, **we will take care of our post-service monkeys until the end of their natural lives.** Second, **our mission, providing innovative technologies and quality of life opportunities to those living with physical disabilities, will never change.**



We hope that you will join us in ensuring the wellness of all our post-service monkeys. You can do this by symbolically adopting one of our beloved capuchins, and supporting housing, food, veterinary care, toys, enrichment, and even snuggly warm blankets on cold New England nights! [Adopt a monkey](#) to hear stories of your monkey through videos and photos, and also learn about the men and women they served, their daily routines, and how they are inspiring the future work of HH.

We are introducing our Innovative Technology Strategy to begin to explore and soon offer innovative technologies now coming on the market at a rapid pace, that we want to be helpful and empower individuals with physical disabilities to live more independent lives. As when we trained service monkeys from the 1980s through the 2000s, our goal is to provide tools that allow individuals with physical disabilities to have more opportunities to pursue meaningful careers, advanced educational degrees, and fulfilling personal lives.

Currently, we are looking at three areas to implement immediately, including:

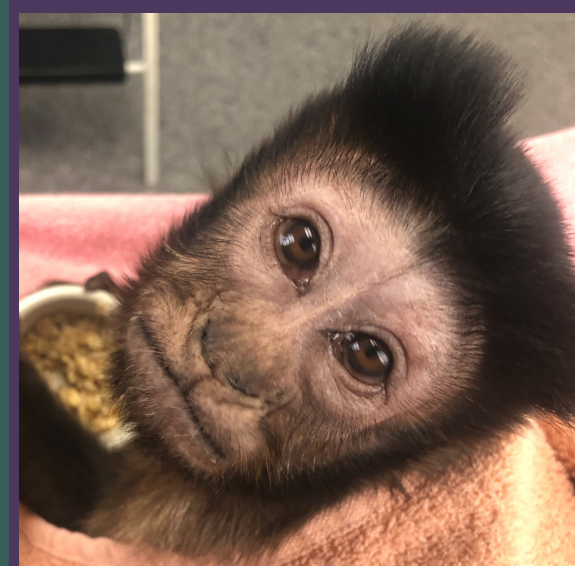
- Assistive and adaptive devices
- Robotics
- Virtual reality (VR)

Over the course of the next few months, I will share more information on the three areas. The initial offering in the HH Innovative Technology Strategy will be the Assistive Device Program. Many adults may need assistive or adaptive devices to help them daily, and provide the independence necessary to get to work or school. This program will begin by working with a small population and expand. These devices could be technology that can be purchased online, are easy to use, and make an individual's day-to-day life easier. Generally, it might be a technology that is not covered by insurance and an individual or family cannot afford on their own. (i.e., Google Nest Hub or Amazon Echo Show). The device will not only provide increased independence for the person living with the physical disability but may also provide their caregiver(s) with some free time to go about their own daily activities. Please check back in late summer for an online application and complete instructions for applying to this new need-based program.

Sincerely,

Diane S. Nahabedian
Executive Director

Announcing: Adopt a Monkey!
(Symbolically, of course!)



Our sweet monkeys have cared for so many people living with physical disabilities as service animals and constant companions. Some are still paired with recipients and others are in their post-service years living at our Monkey Living Center and in special care homes. They all need you.

When you symbolically adopt a monkey, you are supporting housing, food, vet care, toys, healthy treats, and snuggly blankets for our capuchins.

[Learn More](#)

Welcome Tatiana Shannon,
Development Assistant!



Tatiana graduated from Hampshire College in 2012 with a BA in History and a minor in Fine Arts.

Since graduating, she has amassed a decade of experience working in both development and communications for local historical societies, real estate companies, and small businesses all across Massachusetts.

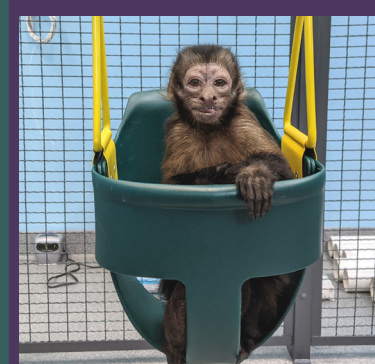
Please join us in welcoming her to the team!

[Meet Tatiana](#)

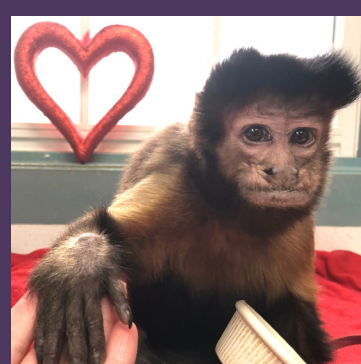
Birthday Round-up at the Monkey Living Center!

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

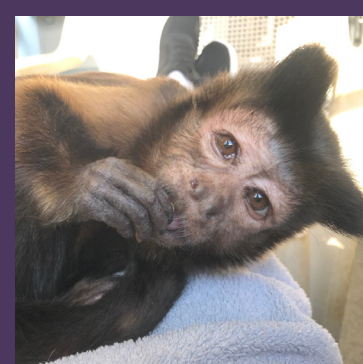
Sadie, Robin, and Sharon!



Sadie



Robin



Sharon

Join the Helping Hands Development Committee!

Helping Hands is actively seeking candidates interested in fundraising to work alongside senior staff, volunteers, and board members on our Development Committee.

Specifically, we are looking for people who have fundraising, marketing, and/or event planning skills and are willing to reach out to introduce us to potential donors/funders.

For more information, please contact Julie Totten, Director of Development at juliet@monkeyhelpers.org, or call 617.787.4419 x.113.

[Donate Now](#)