

#### Greetings from the Executive Director

July is National Ice Cream Month. Signed into public law by President Ronald Reagan on July 9, 1984, with Presidential Proclamation 5219, what could be more delicious than 31 days of creamy delight!

The month of July also happens to be Disability Pride Month, during which we also observe two important days:

- Disability Awareness Day; and,
- The anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

For many the picture of an individual with a "disability" may be that of an elderly individual in a wheelchair or using a walker. You may be surprised to learn that according to the [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#) *Disability is a **global public health issue** – it affects one in seven people worldwide. Everybody is likely to experience disability at some point in life.*

Additionally, WHO clearly states: *Disability is also a **human rights issue** – people with a disability are among the world's most discriminated people, often experiencing violence, prejudice and denial of autonomy as well as facing barriers to care.*

At Helping Hands: Monkey Helpers we do not pretend to have the answers on how to solve the issues or find the cures for the diseases that may cause a disability; or the ways to prevent accidents that cause catastrophic disabilities. What we are striving for are solutions to provide independence and empower adults who are facing challenges related to physical disabilities to use innovative technology for daily living needs.

Moreover, we are aiming to bring awareness to the issues that face those living with disabilities whether physical barriers in buildings; inclusion in employment; health care concerns or discrimination whether at an educational institution or elsewhere.

We cannot do this work alone. We are asking for your assistance. [Help us](#) to continue to provide solutions that empower those living with physical disabilities to live their best lives every day.

*Diane A. Nahabedian*



Diane S. Nahabedian  
Executive Director



#### The Simian Society - making a difference



Would you like to give to others in a lasting way? Have you been modifying your estate plans in the wake of COVID-19? Have you considered making a planned gift and joining the Simian Society?

Andrea and Joe Finnerty talked to us about why they have included Helping Hands in their estate planning:

"We thought about how we wanted our funds used once we were gone and we chose Helping Hands because it has a strong track record of delivering on its mission while also proving it can adapt to changing times. We are proud to support all aspects of Helping Hands - the incredible monkeys, the animal care staff that care for and provide each animal with love and support, the volunteer leadership and staff, and of course the recipients and their families. They all shine a beautiful light on the incredible power of the human animal bond."

The Simian Society recognizes donors who have chosen to leave a gift to Helping Hands in their will. Your decision to make a donation as part of your estate plans provides a legacy for the work we do every day. Simian Society members receive special communications from Helping Hands throughout the year.

[LEARN MORE](#)

#### Corinne and Glassie

July 12 marked Disability Awareness Day and we spent the day telling the story of Corinne and Glassie, who have been inseparable since 2008. You may have seen their story on our [website](#), or in our [Annual Report](#).

In 1985, Corinne was diagnosed with Secondary-Progressive Multiple Sclerosis. "I remember when I volunteered with the horseback program, I would walk alongside the horse making sure the student didn't fall off. Little did I know, 10 years later, I would be the one on the horse."

[READ THEIR STORY](#)



#### Announcing Two Major Grants

We are thrilled to announce that we have recently received two major grants, one from the Liberty Mutual Foundation (\$35,000) for the Innovative Technology Program and one from the Mabel Louise Riley Foundation (\$50,000) for [Hellion's Emergency Fund](#).

The grant for the Innovative Technology Program will assist in establishing a program that provides assistive technology devices to those not covered by insurance as well as test robotics and virtual reality technologies in pilot programs that will ultimately enable adults to live more independently and stay socially connected. The Emergency Funds will be used to cover renovations to the Monkey Living Center that were necessary during the pandemic to keep the post-service monkeys healthy and safe.

Thank you for your friendship and support.

[READ THE PRESS RELEASE](#)

#### Birthday Round-up at the Monkey Living Center!

Join us in wishing Gordy, Mandy, Albert, Molly, Tricia, Kukla, J-Lee, and Sophie a VERY Happy Birthday this month!

Our monkeys celebrating their birthday in July just love opening packages!

Did you know you can send them some of our most needed items from our [WishList?](#)



Gordy



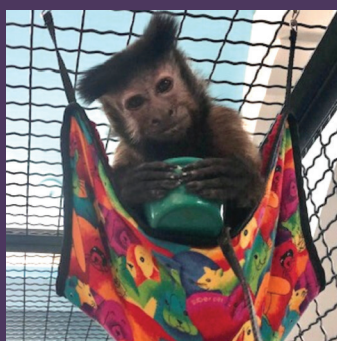
Mandy



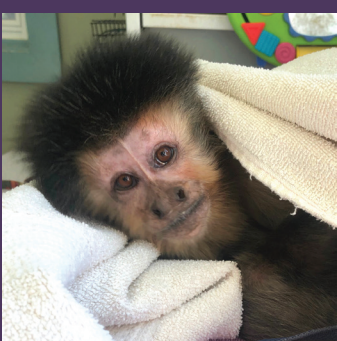
Albert



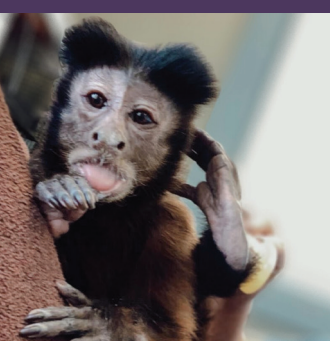
Molly



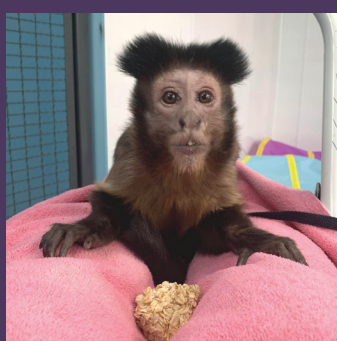
Tricia



Kukla



J-Lee



Sophie

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Helping Hands: Monkey Helpers

