



**Greetings from the Executive Director**

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month. The U.S. Department of Labor, in a press release: "acknowledges the contributions to the nation's economy made by workers with disabilities, current and past. The commemoration also showcases supportive and inclusive policies and practices benefiting workers and employers."

According to the Library of Congress, "This effort to educate the public about the issues related to disability and employment began in 1945, when Congress enacted Public Law 176, declaring the first week of October each year as National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week. In 1962, the word "physically" was removed to acknowledge the employment needs and contributions of individuals with all types of disabilities. Some 25 years later, Congress expanded the week to a month and changed the name to National Disability Employment Awareness Month."

This year, President Biden's Presidential Action states that for too long if one used a wheelchair or had any other mobility disability there was no way to take public transportation to work or school. The Presidential action states that in 1945, when President Harry Truman first established National Disability Employment Awareness Month and then in 1990 when Congress passed the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), America began to see positive changes take place in our workforce. As the Biden Presidential Action says, "Due to the passage of the ADA the workforce is more productive, prosperous, and inclusive by banning disability discriminations, including in the workplace."

At Helping Hands, we were inspired to read that the ADA not only transformed lives but also inspired over 180 other countries to pass similar laws.

The work we are doing at Helping Hands, which includes exploring a variety of assistive technologies to assist folks in finding devices to help them go back to work either at home or in the workplace, is of vital importance. Often one small assistive device could be the difference between meaningful employment or not being able to work.

I hope you will support us in our efforts to continue to support those living with physical disabilities.

*Diane S. Nahabedian*



Diane S. Nahabedian  
Executive Director



**Shop for Good Friday, November 4!**



We are so excited to be partnering with the Sara Campbell store in Boston for an exclusive day of shopping! 15% of all purchases made at the store (84 Chestnut Street, Boston) or called into the store (617-377-4054) benefit Helping Hands: Monkey Helpers!

It will be a fun day in person - meet some staff of Helping Hands, browse and purchase some beautiful items, and enter a raffle to win prizes.

If you can't make it to the store in person, browse their website, pick your items, and call the store on Friday, November 4 to place your order!

Please share with anyone you think might be interested - we can't wait to see you on Friday, November 4!

**Capuchin Caretaker Highlight: Jessica and Dustin**



One night back in 2007 when Jessica and Dustin were watching the TV show Jeopardy, Alex Trebek brought up a category about Helping Hands: Monkey Helpers! He asked intriguing questions about what our little Capuchins can do to help people with paralysis and showed charming videos of the monkeys in action. "We were captivated," said Jessica. "We thought, we need to look into this innovative approach!"

[Read More](#)

**Pre-order the Helping Hands 2023 Calendar**



We are getting excited! The 2023 calendar is in final production with our printer and available for pre-order! We hope that each month's photo brings a smile to your face, knowing your calendar order means that our sweet monkeys have a safe, secure, and healthy environment here in Boston at the Monkey Living Center during their post-service years.

[Pre-order today](#)

**Helping Hands in the News!**

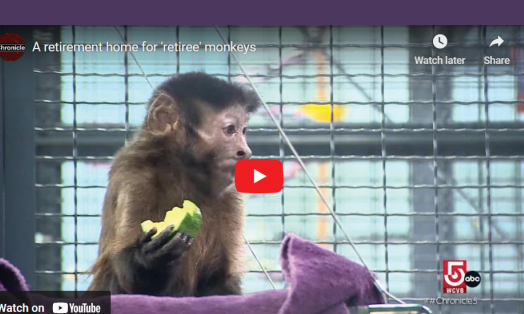


We were very fortunate this past summer to have the production company Romero and Braas, a German film company based in Mexico City, visit with us. They expertly captured the transition that is taking place at our organization. We hope you enjoy it! Special thanks to Ellen, Ned, and Kasey as well as George, Deborah, and Eric for participating in this project.

The narration is in German, but if you switch on Subtitles and then click in the settings: Subtitles/CC, you can choose "Auto-translate" and put it in English. That generates subtitles in English.

**A retirement home for 'retiree' monkeys  
A Boston nonprofit group that once provided service monkeys to those in need now cares for the animals in their golden years**

Helping Hands was so pleased to welcome WCVB's Chronicle to the Monkey Living Center to talk about the post-service monkeys in our care and our transition to assisting people living with disabilities using innovative technologies.

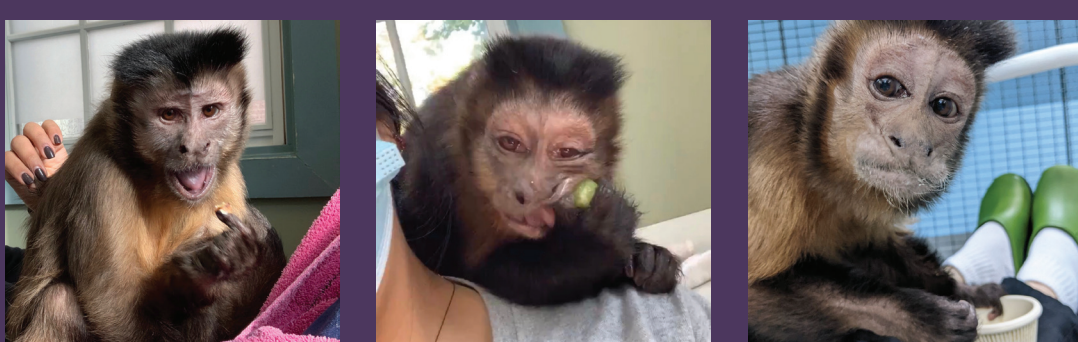


**October Birthdays at the Monkey Living Center!**

Join us in wishing O'Leary, Max, Gizmo, Lucy, Gwen, and TC a VERY Happy Birthday!

*If you want to send them a birthday gift, they would love a gift certificate from nuts.com! All their delicious nutty treats come from there and we are always in need of gift certificates.*

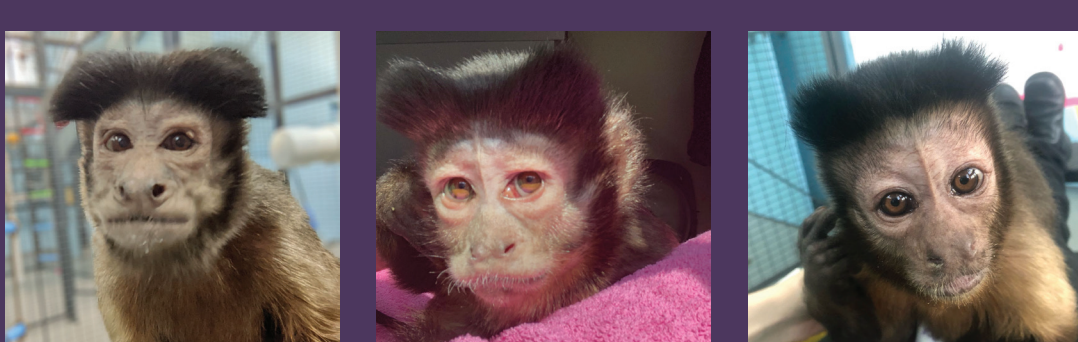
[Visit nuts.com](#)



O'Leary

Max

Gizmo



Lucy

Gwen

TC

**You are invited in November!**

Please join us for one or both of our November Zoom events. Both are free—just sign up!

**Explorations in Experiential Robotics**

Wednesday, November 2, 6pm



Dr. Taskin Padir, Associate Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Northeastern University and Amazon Scholar, will discuss the four pillars of experiential robotics and challenges and opportunities for research in achieving seamless human-robot teaming.

This talk will highlight our prior and ongoing research projects on collaborative robotics in the home and workplace. Systems, and methods will be presented in deformable object manipulation, prosthetic hand control, humanoid robotics, and collaborative robotics.

[Register](#)

**Faces of the Rainforest**

Wednesday, November 9, 6pm



Louis Perrotti, Director of Conservation Programs for the Rhode Island Zoological Society/Roger Williams Park Zoo, will examine the biodiversity and fragility of the Amazon Rainforest.

Perrotti will discuss what he and the Roger Williams Park Zoo are doing to help the rainforest and the indigenous communities that live there to survive. He will also give us all helpful ideas on ways we can assist in saving the rainforest and the species that live within - including the capuchin monkey.

[Register](#)

Both discussions will help support the work of Helping Hands: Monkey Helpers as we pursue the benefits of innovative technologies to assist those living with physical disabilities and support our post-service monkeys.