



Make a Gift

Monkey Business

June 24, 2023 — Volume 70



Greetings from the Executive Director

I read an article earlier this month about a father who has Multiple Sclerosis (MS) and how his children never knew him before MS. It struck home with me. I don't ever remember my father when he wasn't in a wheelchair. The father in this article talked about how his children were very aware of the importance of accessibility and how proud he was that his young boys were always looking out for accessible ramps, and handicap parking spots. In the 70s and 80s nothing was accessible. We muddled through as did millions of other families who lifted wheelchairs over steps or worse gave up and loved ones just stayed at home. Today, things are different. However, there is still so much more work to do.



As you are aware [Envisioning Access](#) is first and foremost, an organization dedicated to providing innovative solutions through new technologies to bring quality of life opportunities to adults living with physical disabilities so they may gain independence for self-empowerment to live life as they choose.

As we continue to establish our [Innovative Technology Initiative](#) and build the pilot projects within, we are developing projects that we are confident will provide a more accessible world for all.

We are making tremendous progress instituting our Innovative Technology Initiative, and the framework for two pilot projects is coming together. The transition we have been discussing is happening, as you know from our rebranding. Your love and support for this transformation is what is making all of this work possible. Every day we get one step closer to realizing a more accessible world through innovative technologies.

Of course, we will never forget our little capuchins. I am so fortunate that I visit with our monkeys regularly and look forward to discussing the fine taste of peanut butter and whatever the vegetable or fruit of the day may be! Your contributions are what keep these post-service monkeys healthy in their older years.

We are truly a unique organization both establishing our Innovative Technology Initiative while caring for our aging post-service monkeys. [Your support](#) is what keeps all of this going, so thank you for staying with us through this transition. We appreciate everything you are doing for Envisioning Access.

Article about our work in Orthopedic Design & Technology!

We are very excited to share this article about the work of Envisioning Access written by Kristine Carroll and Diane Nahabedian that appeared in Orthopedic Design & Technology, entitled [Envisioning Access Pioneers Technological Breakthroughs for People with Physical Disabilities](#). The nonprofit organization is conducting pilot projects in the areas of assistive tech/robotics and augmented/virtual/mixed reality.



Happy Birthday, Jessica!

As Jessica is the only monkey at the Monkey Living Center that has a birthday in June, we wanted you to be able to get to know this sweet and goofy girl! We sat down with Chelsea, a member of our monkey care team, to find out more about our 33 year-old birthday girl.



Jessica is my silliest monkey and is so much fun! She was always one of my favorite monkeys when I was a volunteer and when I found out that she was going to be one of the monkeys that I would be handling when I came on staff, I was so excited! She is such a goofball, but she is also just such a little love. She loves to snuggle in my lap and has this adorable habit of holding my hand while we snuggle. Often the snuggling will turn into playing as she LOVES to wrestle. Jessica also gives the best hugs! She will run up to me and wrap her arms around my neck – it is SO sweet.

She sometimes gets super excited and gets the zoomies, bouncing from one spot in the playroom to another, jumping on me then running off to a toy. She can sometimes be a little TOO energetic for the other monkeys – they don't know quite what to make of her boundless energy!

Jessica is unique in a couple of ways. She is very particular about her favorite toy, a little stuffed monkey. We have many of these stuffed animals so that she can always have one – even when one or more are being laundered! She takes her monkey with her everywhere; she grooms it, she flirts with it, she tosses it up in the air to play with it – it is her most cherished possession. She makes sure before she goes to sleep that it is tucked into her blankets with her. She is also the only white-fronted (or albifrons) capuchin at the Monkey Living Center. Like all the other monkeys, Jessica loves her peanut butter, but she doesn't love bananas! She would much rather munch on blueberries than eat bananas or apples.

I'm so honored that I have gotten to see her sweet side as well as her goofy side. I'm thrilled that Jessica gets the entire month to herself for birthday celebrations – she's a one in a million monkey!

Don't forget, you can send gifts to the monkeys at the Monkey Living Center from our wishlist. They LOVE getting presents!

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Envisioning Access

