



Make a Gift

### Monkey Business

July 29, 2023 — Volume 72



### Greetings from the Executive Director

Have you had any involvement with virtual reality (VR)? Maybe you had the opportunity to take a trip in VR, played a really "cool" game or participated in a professional training given in VR. However, you used this emerging technology I am guessing you felt like you were on the cutting edge. To be honest—you were!



At Envisioning Access, we have been discussing the many benefits of using virtual reality in a number of different ways. We are almost ready to launch one of our pilot projects around VR. As we fine tune the project, we want to introduce you more in-depth to the technology and why it will be important to delve deeper into this world.

For those living with physical disabilities the opportunity to go back to school, find meaningful employment, or travel around the world may be hampered by obstacles. Why should an individual be denied a higher education because the campus is difficult to maneuver in a wheelchair? Moreover, working from home is easy and with VR an employee can feel like they are in the office with their co-workers.

What about traveling, and seeing the next town or another country? I am guessing everyone who reads this newsletter has dreamed of traveling to far off places. Some of you have probably traveled to exotic lands. What's stopping any of us from traveling—well many things—our budgets, time constraints, mobility limitations, fear of flying. However, traveling offers a plethora of learning opportunities.

What if you wanted to walk the great wall of China, or get inside one of the great Egyptian pyramids? Pricey? Can't travel to these places anymore due to geopolitical circumstances? Ah, never fear that is why we now have virtual reality. So, then VR is for everyone, now is it not?

Starting in this issue we are introducing a new feature. We will be adding an article, written by the experts, that we suggest you check out. This month's article focuses on the many uses of virtual reality. It gives us all a better understanding of the technology, why it is important the Envisioning Access embrace this particular technology, and why in the end it will assist those living with physical disabilities. We hope you have the opportunity to read and enjoy it!!!

### Innovative Technology Corner!

#### VR and AI: The Perfect Blend for the New World

The pace of digitalization, the scope of AI applications, and the evolution of technology is increasing Artificial intelligence, machine learning, virtual reality, and augmented reality have all advanced quickly in the last ten years. Massive training data sets and advances in computer science like deep learning have produced astonishing outcomes. Innovations in optics, display technology, microprocessors, and algorithms have all contributed to developing ever-better virtual reality and augmented reality experiences outside of AI technology and data science.



With or without a VR headset, consumers may interact with various virtual environments, including video games, virtual tours, social media, and educational platforms. Technology in virtual reality and artificial intelligence has been around for longer than people realize, which is one thing they have in common. Although early attempts don't resemble modern solutions much, both have been around in some form for more than 70 years. At the University of Manchester in the UK, software-based artificial intelligence, or AI, was first developed in 1951. Chess and checkers-playing software was developed separately. If we expand the notion of artificial intelligence, we discover that history is replete with "automata," mechanical beings capable of making straightforward decisions. Some of these instances go back many years.

CONTINUE READING

### Meet one of our Birthday Monkeys - Sophie!

You may remember seeing Sophie in the 2011 short film, *Judy and Sophie's Story*. When Judy passed away, Sophie returned to Boston to be cared for in her post-service years. We sat down with Kim Gomez, one of our monkey care team, to find out more about Sophie.

"If there is one word I might use to describe Sophie, it is princess—and I mean that in the nicest way possible! She is a sweet, rather particular 32-year-old monkey enjoying her post-service life at the Monkey Living Center. She doesn't love her baths, but she loves warm towels and cozy blankets fresh from the dryer. Sophie loves to eat anything that is not monkey chow; oatmeal, peanut butter, cucumbers...she even tries to steal my lunch! But peanut butter and cucumbers are tied as her favorite treats.

Because she loves her snacks so much, she's the slowest eater I have ever seen! It takes Sophie about 45 minutes to eat all her treats because she must savor every bite.



As soon as she gets them, she takes them off to the furthest corner of the play area away from all the other monkeys to set them out like a little buffet to slowly eat them.

Sophie really likes to be on her own. She loves sunbeams and my lap, but much prefers hanging out by herself with her toys and her food to playing with other monkeys. She will let other monkeys groom her occasionally, but it is not a regular thing. She prefers things how she wants them—for example, she will not share my lap! She loves to sit in my lap and cuddle, but if there is another monkey in my lap, she will go off to the furthest corner of the room. Sophie loves all toys, but especially little action figures—she loves to play with them; posing their arms and legs in different ways. She's my sweet little diva—Sophie makes me smile every day."

Check out our wishlist on Amazon and send Sophie and her friends a gift! They love to open presents!

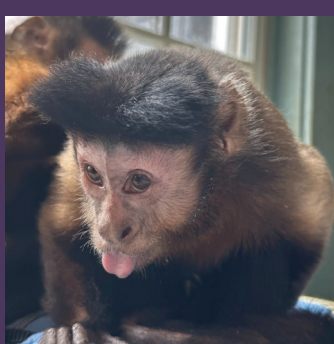
### Birthday Round-up at the Monkey Living Center!

Happy birthday to all our sweet monkeys born in July! This month we celebrate Gordy, Mandy, Molly, Tricia, Kukla, J-Lee, and of course, Sophie!

Whether you want to honor a person or pet for their birthday, a holiday, or some other occasion...your "In Honor of" gift to our organization will show them how much you care for them. And if you give us their address, we will send them a card!



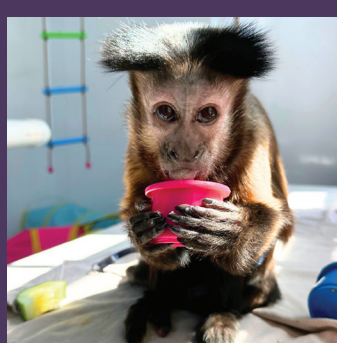
Gordy



Mandy



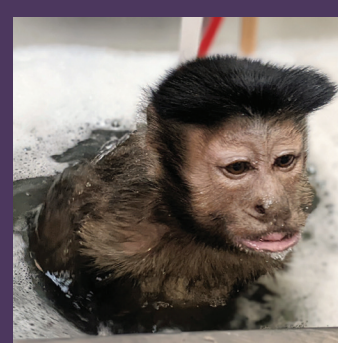
Molly



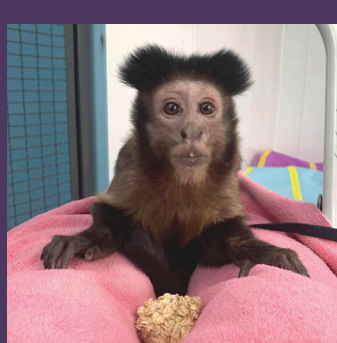
Tricia



Kukla



J-Lee



Sophie

# Happy Birthday

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Envisioning Access

