



Greetings from the Executive Director

It is all around us—technology. Even those of us who say we do not quite understand all this new technology are using it daily. Think about it—most of us are using mobile phones, driving cars that are up-to-date or are driving EV or hybrid cars. Many of us may have smart homes or partially smart homes. Ok—if you don't have a "smart home" my guess is many of you reading this have terrific large screen televisions accessing many channels and streaming all the latest movies and series. That is new technology.



Envisioning Access is on the cutting edge as well. As we close out October, we are working on projects that will change the way persons with disabilities live their lives thanks not to technology available today, but technology we are working on for the future. Thanks to all of you we are able to do this work.

Over the next 12-18 months you will meet some new recipients and new technologies. Today, one of our newer recipients George, who lives in a Boston suburb with his wife, is experimenting with a wearable called **SensoRehab**. George lives with Multiple Sclerosis and over the last few years has begun to have limited mobility in both his upper and lower body. SensoRehab is a glove that restores hand motor function in those living with neurological disorders including, but not limited to stroke, Multiple Sclerosis, Cerebral Palsy. All online, Envisioning Access will provide strategic feedback on the usefulness of the glove and outcomes based on those who test the glove.

Moreover, every project that we introduce and proceed with will have the same set of goals including:

- Provide accessibility.
- Explore how aging affects the onset of disabilities.
- How the technology can keep someone, no matter the disability or age, in their home.
- Improve quality of life and assist in daily living needs for those living with physical disabilities.
- Provide peace of mind for the primary caregiver.

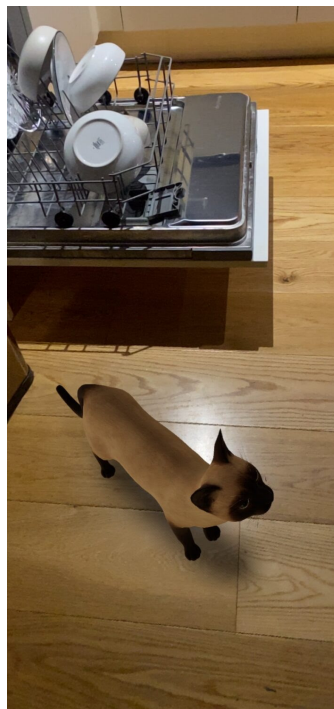
If you are following us on social media stay tuned in the next week for photos and updates of how our SensoRehab project unfolds on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [X \(formerly Twitter\)](#), and [LinkedIn](#). All of this because you are supporting persons with disabilities and the work of Envisioning Access. We hope you will continue to [support this work](#). THANK YOU.

Technology Corner: What is XR and why is it important for disabled people?

Meg Fozzard, Producer on the Museum of Austerity, describes XR technologies and their potential for greater inclusivity and experimentation.

XR stands for extended reality and is the umbrella term for VR (Virtual Reality), AR (Augmented Reality) and MR (Mixed Reality). The differences between the three of these can start to feel confusing, so try not to get too hung up on what is what.

Virtual reality is where you are immersed in a whole new world in a VR headset. These headsets go on your head and most of your field of vision is taken up by a screen. Wherever you look in the headset or wherever you move your head, you will see a portion of a 360 film or computer generated environment. Some VR headsets have eye-tracking sensors and gaming controllers. Augmented reality is where the virtual world is overlaid on the real world. Digital details such as images, text and animation augment or enhance the real world the individual is experiencing. The most famous example of augmented reality is Pokemon Go, which became very popular in 2016. To play Pokemon Go, you use your smartphone to walk around your local area and hunt for the Pokemon that appear on your screen. Lastly, mixed reality is where real and virtual elements interact with one another and the user like they would in the real world. The Microsoft HoloLens is one of the ways that you can experience mixed reality.



A screenshot from a phone. You can see a kitchen with the dishwasher open. Via the process described in the article, a life sized animation of a Siamese cat can be seen in the room.

Photo: Meg Fozzard

Most of all, XR is exciting. It can be experienced in all kinds of ways. As virtual reality is on a headset, you can experience it in your home. If you don't want to buy a headset, there are VR arcades across the country. Augmented reality is easier to access as you can use it on your smartphone.

READ MORE

Join us in welcoming Halley Gmeiner, database coordinator!



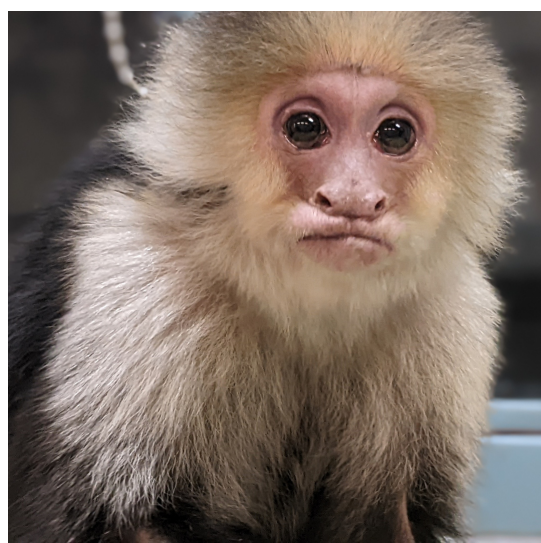
We are thrilled that Halley Gmeiner joined the Envisioning Access team in October!

After graduating from American University (and then working there for two additional years), she took an epic road trip that involved driving to all 48 of the continental United States. When the adventure ended, she landed in Western Massachusetts and dove into a career in nonprofit development work.

MEET HALLEY

Remembering Siggy

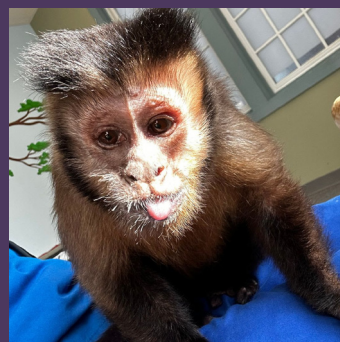
As our post-service monkeys age, we give them all the love and care possible for the remainder of their lives. This October, we lost one of our most well known service monkeys, Siggy. Every monkey is precious, but there was something truly special about Siggy. (You may remember her as we [featured her story in September, 2021](#).) A super smart and confident monkey, Siggy was placed multiple times during her long career. She was involved in several large media pieces, a film called Great Beginnings, and was featured in the show Collar of Duty. She helped to educate countless students across the country about service monkeys. She was diagnosed with breast cancer in the middle of her career and after a mastectomy, the cancer went into remission. But unfortunately, nothing lasts forever. After more than 10 years of being cancer free, she was diagnosed with lymphoma. A feisty and spirited monkey, she remained strong and energetic as we monitored her health. But this month, she let us know it was time to let her go. It is always hard to say goodbye, but Siggy's memory will live on through the many lives that she touched.



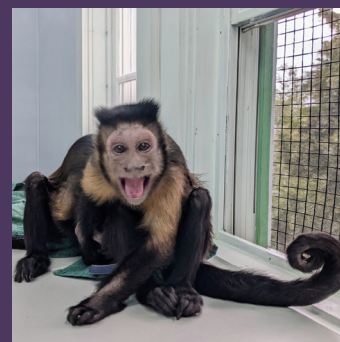
Birthday Round-up at the Monkey Living Center!

It's October, which means we are wishing O'Leary, Gizmo, Andy, Lucy, Gwen, and TC the happiest of birthdays!

Don't forget—you can send your favorite monkeys [birthday gifts from our Wishlist!](#) The monkeys love to open gifts from their friends.



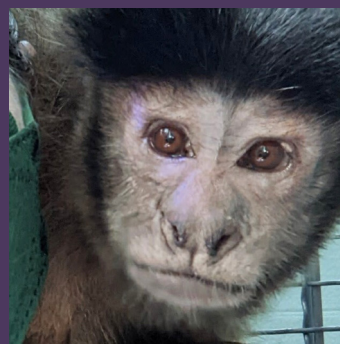
O'Leary



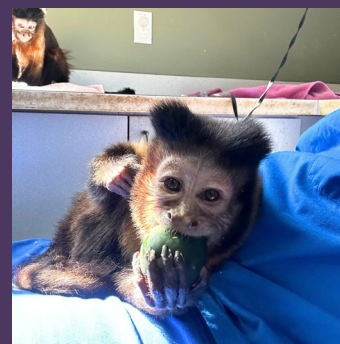
Gizmo



Andy



Lucy



Gwen



TC



Have you ordered your calendar yet? The 2024 calendars have arrived in the office and this may be our best calendar yet! 12 months of adorable monkeys, just for you. Don't wait —[order yours today!](#)

Make a Gift