



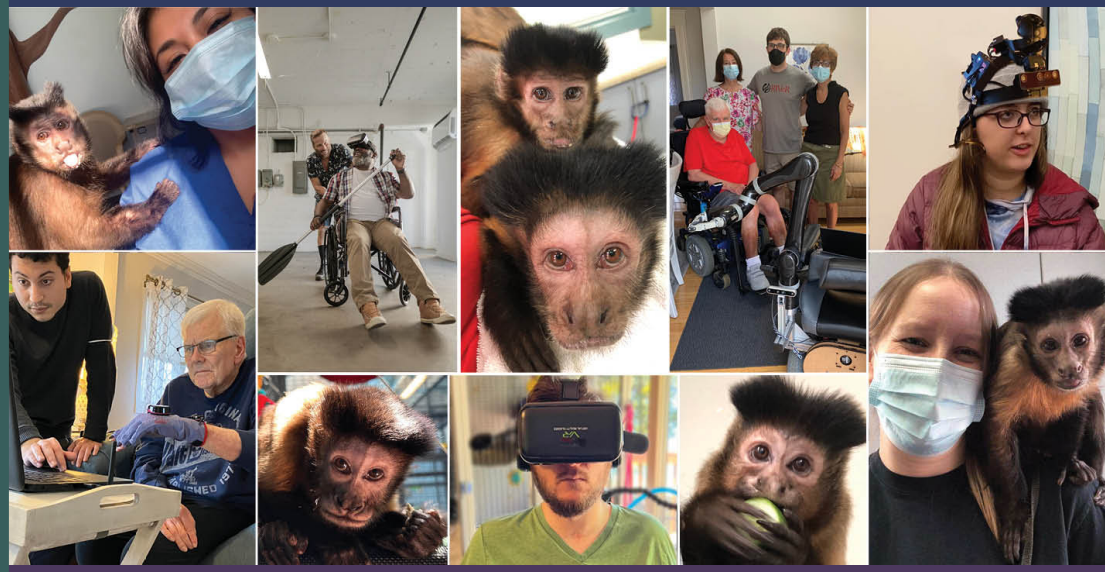
ENVISIONING ACCESS

Innovative Solutions for People Living With Physical Disabilities

Make a Gift

Monkey Business

March 30, 2024 — Volume 79



Greetings from the Executive Director

One of the joys of working at Envisioning Access is learning about and working with some of the latest technology that is available. As a staff we have the opportunity to see first hand how technology may transform an individual's life. We are striving to work on technology that has three main goals including:

- providing a means to assist with a path for employment;
• offering assistance to going back to higher education; and,
• helping to alleviate isolation.



We are fortunate to work with tech start-ups like Waipoint who invented VISORS and universities like Northeastern who have the same goal.

For instance, we are excited to be working with the Khoury College of Computer Science on Access AI—an app to assist those with visual impairments find employment. Additionally, this app will assist in writing a resume and putting a cover letter together. Our friends at SenseTech in Toronto are working with us on an app to assist those with visual and mobility impairment perfect their interviewing techniques. Both these apps, once they are developed, will be released and on the market.

The Billy Project, which is still in the concept stage, is exploring how to make the tools of augmented and virtual reality more accessible to assist those with mobility impairments go back to meaningful employment.

All of this exciting, innovative work cannot continue without your assistance and does continue with your support. We are so grateful that you are here with us—THANK YOU.

Please enjoy the two articles attached this month in our Technology Corner. They highlight some of the issues regarding disability and employment that are happening in the US.

Technology Corner: Disability and Employment

25% of disabled workers have experienced discrimination during the job interview process, new survey finds



Disabled people experienced a record level of employment in 2023, thanks in large part to remote work. Despite opportunities created by remote work and the three-decade old Americans with Disabilities Act, many disabled workers still face barriers to employment.

Disabled workers often face barriers before they can even apply for a job, which continues once they're in the workforce, and one in three disabled workers experience discrimination in the workplace, according to an Indeed survey of 2,078 workers, shared exclusively with HR Brew. Of those surveyed, 19% identified as having a disability.

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Disabled scientists are often left out of academia. The NIH can help change that

Despite being the largest minority in the nation, disabled people like us have been structurally and institutionally obstructed from entering research-dominated fields. When they do manage to break through, they are seldom given the support and accommodations needed to sustain employment and thrive in their professional lives.



As we have experienced, including people with disabilities in academic leadership and decision-making positions can lead to innovation, creative problem-solving, and insight across scientific, policy, teaching, and administration areas.

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Government Relations with Amir Ameli

I am excited to introduce myself as your Business/Government Relations Manager here at Envisioning Access. My name is Amir Ameli, and I joined the team in 2023 with a dual role focusing on development and government relations.



Since coming on board, I've been diligently working to expand our network of non-profit partnerships while also establishing connections with elected officials. Our goal is simple yet crucial: to ensure that our organization's efforts are recognized and supported by those in positions to make a difference.

In the past months, we've had the privilege of meeting with two state officials and their offices in Massachusetts and one in Rhode Island, discussing our mission, and highlighting the impact of our work. However, this is just the beginning.

As your Government Relations Manager, I am committed to ensuring that our organization's mission is not only recognized but actively supported by legislative bodies at both the state and federal levels. With your help, we can advocate for meaningful change that directly impacts our community.

Our focus is clear: we aim to champion legislation that promotes meaningful employment opportunities, facilitates access to technology for higher education, and addresses the issue of social isolation among our community members. These are not just goals; they are essential pillars in our collective journey toward creating a more inclusive and equitable society.

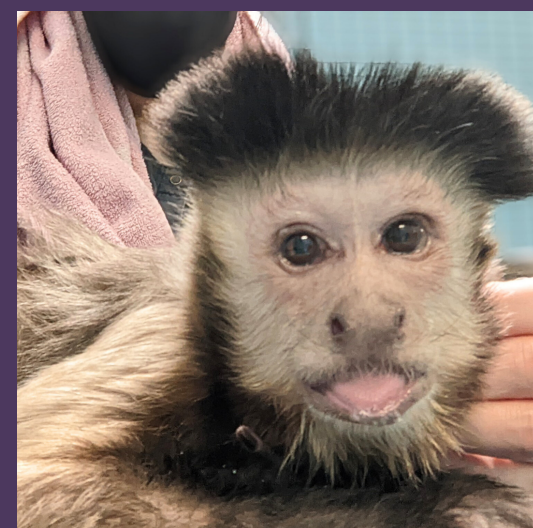
In the coming months, I will keep you informed through our newsletters about the progress of our advocacy efforts and any legislative developments that affect our community. Your support and engagement are invaluable as we navigate this landscape of change together.

Together, we can make a difference and ensure that Envisioning Access continues to positively impact lives within our community and beyond.

Birthday Round-up at the Monkey Living Center!

Happy Birthday to our monkeys born in March: Tucker and Marty!

Thank you to those of you who have sent birthday gifts to our monkeys—they LOVE to open presents! Do you want to send a gift to a monkey? Check out our Amazon Wish List and find the perfect gift!



Tucker



Marty

Make a Gift

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Envisioning Access, formerly Helping Hands: Monkey Helpers

