

Greetings from the Executive Director

As April ends, we are seeing a burst of flowers all over the Boston area. I know many of you who read our eNews are from other parts of the United States and the world, so it is lovely to share a bit of Boston with you at this time of year.



We are marking just over a year since we officially announced our transition into Envisioning Access. We are staying true to our mission of providing enhanced quality of life and opportunities for individuals, and communities living with physical disabilities. We will never waiver from that purpose. As you are aware we are now engaging with tech start-ups and universities to develop technology. As the technology is developed, we ask those in the disability community to test the technology to insure it is appropriate before any new product hits the market.

This is important and vital work. The technology we are working on must:

- provide a means to assist with a path for employment;
- offer assistance to going back to higher education; and,
- help alleviate isolation.

Many of you are consistently generous with your support. We truly need all your donations, and we ask that you will give to this effort so we can continue to fund the projects we are undertaking. We would not ask for your contributions for these projects if it were not important. Your gift of any amount can lead to the development of technology that will assist someone who will be able to go back to work and support themselves and their family, or get a degree or not feel alone. Please help us in this endeavor. Go to our website and go directly to the [Donate Now](#) button to make your donation.

You know we are unique in our work. Unlike many other organizations we have completely transitioned from a service animal model of doing business to our new technology model. We are proud of our legacy, our beloved capuchin monkeys. We continue to honor their legacy by caring for them in their post-service years. As part of that effort, we are excited to once again be a part of the NASCAR Day Giveathon on May 14 and 15. See below for more details and how to be a part of this exciting event.

No matter how you give or how much you give, we appreciate your thoughtfulness and generosity. Your giving helps Envisioning Access to truly provide an enhanced quality of life and opportunities for individuals and communities living with physical disabilities.

THANK YOU! We appreciate all of you!

Envisioning Access In the News


Philanthropy in Phocus with Tommy DiMisa | Streamed live on Mar 29, 2024

Executive Director Diane Nahabedian joins Tommy DiMisa on Philanthropy in Phocus to discuss the work of Envisioning Access, a Boston-based 501c3 that is developing, in conjunction with tech start-ups and universities, innovative technologies like AR/VR, robotics, AI for those living with physical disabilities. Started in 1979, the organization has recently undergone a dynamic transformation from a service animal model to establishing an Innovative Technology Initiative.



[Watch Now](#)

Please join us in Welcoming our new Database Coordinator, Serjio Bredera, CNP!



Serjio is an avid nonprofit professional in the Greater Houston area in Texas. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Political Science from the University of Houston, with a focus in Nonprofit Management to earn his Certified Nonprofit Professional credentials with their Nonprofit Leadership Alliance program. Serjio has been in the sector for over seven years, working in a variety of nonprofits.

[Meet Serjio](#)

Disability Corner

Fresh Campaigns Urge Ad Creatives To Portray Disability Realistically

When it comes to depicting disability in marketing and advertising materials, brand creatives are often left with a sizeable headache.

In advertising imagery, when disability is shown, it needs to be apparent without being so overstated that brands and creatives are left open to accusations of exploitation, insensitivity or boorish ignorance.

In this context, it is perhaps unsurprising that in 2021 only 1% of primetime U.S. TV ads featured disability-related themes or visuals.

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For patients with disabilities, this doctor prioritizes independence — and fun



Kevin Carlson, a 62-year-old self-described WWE wrestling junkie who has cerebral palsy, watches the giant fly across the ring landing on top of his opponent while a respiratory therapist suctions Carlson's lungs, and a nurse checks his catheter.

Carlson is here because his health care team snagged a row of wheelchair-accessible tickets, packed up extra ventilator batteries & oxygen tanks, & shuffled staffing schedules to free up 3 workers to accompany Carlson for the night.

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Government Relations with Amir Ameli

I read this heartening piece recently and felt compelled to share it with you. While the journey toward inclusivity for individuals with disabilities in our digital world has faced its challenges, here at Envisioning Access, we're fervently championing innovative solutions to ensure no one gets left behind in today's digital era.

Teaming up with the [Khoury College of Computer Sciences at Northeastern University](#), our project, Accessible Futures: Innovating Online Job Application Accessibility, is a beacon of hope. Together, we're striving to revolutionize job application processes, making them more accessible for those with visual impairments. In our fast-paced digital landscape, it's easy to forget the barriers many face. But with projects like these, we're making tangible strides toward a more inclusive society.



The recent decision by the U.S. Department of Justice to introduce comprehensive regulations addressing online accessibility for individuals with disabilities is cause for celebration. It marks a significant leap forward in our collective journey toward inclusivity. These regulations not only ensure that essential government services and information are accessible to all but also signify a profound commitment to equality and non-discrimination.

The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the urgency of these initiatives. As life increasingly moves online, it's imperative that we remove existing accessibility barriers. The adoption of WCAG 2.1 Level AA as the standard for digital accessibility is a testament to our recognition of diverse needs and the importance of comprehensive solutions. By embracing technologies like screen readers and speech recognition software, we're fostering a more inclusive online environment for everyone.

Of course, challenges lie ahead, particularly in implementation and enforcement. But with determination and collaboration, we can overcome these hurdles. Initiatives like Accessible Futures, with their focus on practical, user-centric solutions, are paving the way for a more inclusive digital landscape. By complementing regulatory standards with real-world applications, we're inching closer to our goal of digital inclusivity.

In essence, these regulations herald a new chapter in our quest for digital accessibility and the rights of people with disabilities. By fostering collaboration across sectors, we're laying the groundwork for a more equitable and inclusive society. Together, let's continue to champion accessibility and ensure that everyone has an equal opportunity to thrive in our digital world.

[Feds Move To Increase Accessibility For People With Disabilities Online](#)

SAVE THE DATE for the NASCAR Day Giveathon May 14-15!



May 14-15 is the NASCAR Day Giveathon, a joint effort between NASCAR and The NASCAR Foundation to provide much needed funds to the communities where we live, work, and race.

The NASCAR community's day of online giving will be a 37-hour period which provides an easy and fun way to support local nonprofits such as Envisioning Access. There will be opportunities to win fun prizes and to have your donations MATCHED, dollar for dollar. More information will be available on our website and on Social Media closer to the event. Join us!

Birthday Round-up at the Monkey Living Center!

It's April, which means we say Happy Birthday to Rebecca, Deeann, Rubin, Betsy, Heidi, and our oldest monkey at the Monkey Living Center, Mango! (He turns 41 on Tuesday!)

Don't forget—Whether you want to honor a person or pet for their birthday, a holiday, or some other occasion...your "In Honor Of" gift will show them how much you care for them. And if you give us their address, we will even send them a card on your behalf!



Betsy

Heidi

Mango

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Envisioning Access, formerly Helping Hands: Monkey Helpers

