Dear Friends,

I can close my eyes and remember it like it was yesterday—the moment I had the honor of introducing Helping Hands’ service monkey, Kasey, to Ned Sullivan. We are so proud to celebrate their 10 year anniversary together!

I want to thank Ned, his amazing family and friends, and of course, you, our donors, for making this life-changing partnership possible. We are grateful for your support of Ned, Kasey, and all of our recipients and monkey helpers across the country.

Warmest wishes,

Megan Talbert

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**SAVE THE DATE**

Monkey Helpers’ Annual FESTIVALE

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2017**

Boston Design Center
Boston, MA

*We have some exciting changes lined up this year!*

*We’re moving our event* to the Boston Design Center. Sarah Davis and Eric Reddy, this year’s co-chairs, think you’ll love the new vibe!
In 2005, Ned Sullivan was your typical college student—a senior at the University of Arizona studying communications and planning for a future career in sports marketing. His life changed in an instant when a serious car crash left him a quadriplegic. While Ned was recovering, his sisters learned about Helping Hands at a school presentation and introduced him to the program. In 2006, he was matched with his service monkey, Kasey.*

Ned and Kasey celebrated their 10 year anniversary together in December.

“I got Kasey a little over a year after my accident,” said Ned. “So it is almost like all I know is life with Kasey.”

In the beginning after his accident, Ned was discouraged. He was used to being an independent young man living on his own. Now, he had very little movement in his arms and none in his legs. Kasey would do many tasks for Ned, including fetching a dropped object, turning a light switch on and off, and even helping with the remote when they were watching a Red Sox game. Over time,

We look forward to your participation in person or virtually through our online auction.

Keep up to date with all things Festivale related: visit monkeyhelpers.org/festivale

Eric Reddy introducing the 2016 film.

Would you like to help? Contact Erica at erican@monkeyhelpers.org to find out ways to get involved, no matter where you live.
Ned’s abilities have improved. “When I come home after a tough physical therapy session, Kasey is waiting for me and is so excited to see me. This encourages me to keep on working so hard. And it is paying off! In the 10 years we have been together, Kasey has seen me go from just sitting in the chair and not moving my arms much, to having movement in my arms and hands, and some in my legs.”

Kasey has adapted to Ned’s changing abilities by always finding new ways to help and challenge him. Ned attributes their close relationship to the fact that they have been growing and changing together—forging a new path as a team.

But it hasn’t always been smooth sailing. “One time over the holidays—this was in the first year of her living with us,” recalled Ned, “mom had her on her shoulder going into the kitchen. Kasey jumped off her shoulder, right into the pumpkin pie. The pumpkin pie was topped with whipped cream, so we have a picture of her simply covered in whipped cream and pie. She took a bath in that pumpkin pie.”

It is stories like this that bring a smile to Ned’s face. No matter how many times Kasey fetches the dropped remote or phone, it is the companionship and the bond that they share that is so important to Ned. “I am uplifted by how smart she is in her ability to constantly keep me on my toes,” Ned explains.

“She watches everything and learns everything and remembers everything. I recognize her intelligence and am thankful for her. It takes two to tango and we have been dance partners for a really long time, now.”

*You may be familiar with the book “Kasey to the Rescue,” written by Ned’s mother, Ellen Rogers, documenting his journey. A French edition will be published in April.*
Meet a Monkey: Penny

According to Brittany, her trainer, Penny is the snuggliest monkey at The Monkey College! She just loves to curl up in a lap whenever she has the chance. While she gets along with all of her fellow monkey students, her best friend is Shelly. Her favorite treat is oatmeal, and she loves to find flat toys to use as plates for her meals and treats. She also enjoys interactive toys that make noise and any toys with mirrors.

Penny is a very smart girl who can be mischievous at times. She watches everything around her and loves to manipulate puzzles. She figures out locks and clasps quite easily and even knows how to use a key! She recently began the second stage of training, known as the “B” room. Her favorite tasks to practice are currently “sun” (turning a light switch on and off) and “change” (taking an object and changing its location or orientation). Penny is currently learning “mouth,” which is fetching a mouth stick and gently placing it in her trainer’s mouth. She is also working on potty training at this level.

When being bathed, Penny prefers to take a shower under a faucet of running water, rather than soak in a bath. When she is fully trained she will become an excellent partner for a female recipient in a quieter home.

To support Penny and our other monkeys, make a donation at monkeyhelpersdonate.org.
Meet a Monkey!
Learn more inside

You create priceless partnerships.