

Jessica's Journey

According to placement trainer Marissa, Jessica is an incredibly sweet and snuggly monkey who likes everyone, although Heidi is her favorite monkey pal. She loves having a bath and can never get enough of her favorite treat (peanut butter). Her favorite toy is a little plastic heart with a mirror that she takes with her wherever she goes.

As you know, service monkeys may be placed more than once throughout their career, and such is the case with Jessica!

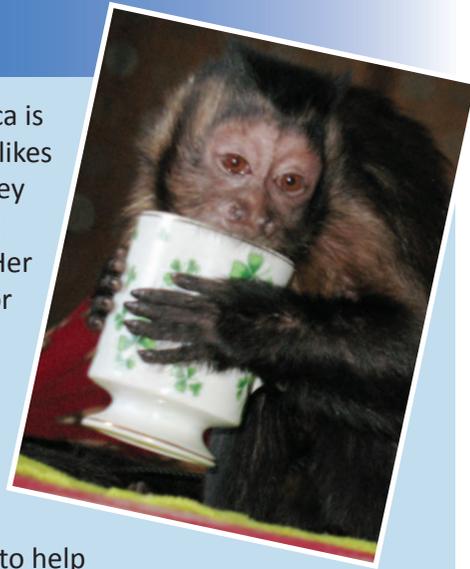
Jessica's journey began when she was placed with Jim Hill in 2007. "She did so many things to help him," says Winnie, his widow. "Jessica would fetch things and scratch itches for him. She would turn the lights on and off. She would load CDs and help him put his headphones on, put his glasses on, and even turn the pages in a book for him."

When Mr. Hill passed away, Winnie knew the best thing would be to send her back to Boston. "It was very difficult giving her up, but I knew that it was the right thing: she would be able to help someone else."

In 2010, Jessica was matched with Maryanne. "Jessica is a ray of sunshine in my life. We are a perfect team. Snuggling in the sun is one of our favorite pastimes. With Jessica around, it's next to impossible to be depressed or sad! She is very entertaining and helpful. I tell her all my secrets without the risk of her blabbing to anyone...she's a true friend."

In 2017, Jessica unexpectedly spent five months back at The Monkey College while Helping Hands worked through some legislative challenges. (Read more inside.) But Maryanne and Jessica have since been reunited.

"It's like last summer never happened. We love to hang out in the yard under the trees together so Jess can hunt the bugs. She is always so proud of herself when she gets one! She makes me laugh because I try to help her find the bugs. I will point one out to Jess, almost touching it, and she will be like 'huh?' Sometimes she is so oblivious!"



HELPING HANDS
MONKEY HELPERS

541 Cambridge Street
Boston, MA 02134

You create priceless partnerships.

Jessica's Journey!
Learn More inside



HELPING HANDS
MONKEY HELPERS

Spring 2018



Maryanne and Jessica



Stay Connected
www.monkeyhelpers.org

From the Executive Director



Dear Friends,

Situations like the one you will read about in this newsletter are becoming more common as states enact laws that prevent people from owning exotic pets. Unfortunately, this means that our recipients and highly trained service monkeys, like Maryanne and Jessica, face unintended consequences from these laws.

While we can—and will—work with attorneys and legislators to make sure our recipients can continue to live more independently with a Helping Hands service monkey, this process results in unanticipated legal costs. Most importantly, it also means recipients like Maryanne can lose their service monkey for months at a time.

Thanks to your generosity, we were able to cover these unexpected costs and reunite Maryanne and Jessica. Your gift ensures we can advocate for all our recipients if the need arises.

With deepest gratitude,

Angela Lett
Interim Executive Director

Maryanne and Jessica: Reunited!

You probably already know that we provide lifetime support for our recipient/service monkey pairs. Last summer, this meant hiring an attorney to help us reunite Maryanne and Jessica when we discovered her county had enacted a law to prevent people from owning exotic pets. Unfortunately, there was no exemption for service animals like our highly trained monkeys. After being together for seven years, Maryanne and Jessica were separated for five months while the attorney worked with lawmakers to help reunite them.

You can read about Maryanne's experience below:

I don't have an exciting story to tell about how I was injured. One minute I was standing and the next minute I wasn't. I sat down and I never stood back up again. I had a blood clot on my spine that left me a paraplegic. Jessica was a ray of sun in my life when we were paired together in 2010. We are a perfect team. Sometimes while she snuggles in my lap, I don't know where I end and she begins! She is such a huge help to me.



In the spring of 2017 I got a call from Helping Hands. Alison Payne, Director of Monkey Care, explained that the laws in my county had recently changed regarding

exotic animals. As we were talking I could feel my heart sinking lower and lower because I didn't know what that really meant long term. She explained that there were currently no exemptions for service monkeys in the new law and that it could be very bad if someone reported Jessica—including the possibility of me going to jail and Jessica being seized by the county. She assured me they were going to do everything they could so that Jessica could come home, but that she would have to return to The Monkey College in the meantime. So, to be on the safe side we sent her "on the lam" to the monkey protection program in Boston.

The house was empty and quiet. I tried to keep busy while Helping Hands and the lawyers worked on the situation. Knowing that she was so far away was just heartbreaking. I missed her company and her snuggles when I was feeling down. It was really hard without her. It is like teamwork—a rhythm that we have that we anticipate each other's needs. She makes life easier and more enjoyable. This may sound funny, but I seemed to drop things more while she was away. Or maybe not. Maybe I had gotten so used to Jessica being right beside me to always get things that I just THOUGHT I dropped things more, because I had to figure out another way to pick things up.

Everyone at Helping Hands was so nice and always so hopeful, saying, "it will be taken care of...we are doing what we can...it just takes time..." etc. They would send cards from her with her little art drawings, as well as pictures and videos. Everyone took such great care of her—it was like she was at summer camp. Five months passed and then I got the call that the lawyers had done their work. Jessica would be coming home!

I was so happy, relieved, overjoyed, and thankful. I know many people were working tirelessly on our behalf.

Jessica has been home for five months, and it's as though last summer never existed. We're back to our normal routine (if you can say living with a monkey is normal), and we are extremely grateful to everyone involved with the "Bring Jessica Home" campaign.

We will never forget your generosity. Your dedication is greatly appreciated. Donors like you are what make Helping Hands great! There aren't enough words to express how much I owe you all. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

We are extremely grateful to everyone involved with the "Bring Jessica Home" campaign

The Monkey Helpers Annual Festivale—'80s Edition on Saturday, October 21, 2017 was a "totally awesome" night! You came, you danced, you bid, and you raised over \$110,000 for current and future recipient/service monkey partnerships! Thank you to everyone who participated and to Co-Chairs Sarah Davis and Eric Reddy. Also thank you to our event sponsors, and our fabulous emcee, David O'Leary!

Gold Sponsors

Suzanne J. & William D. Payne
Foundation Robmar

Silver Sponsors

Joan K Sexton Foundation
Keyes North Atlantic
Erin & Mark Seiden/
Patrick Gan
The Catered Affair
Party Rental, Ltd.

Bronze Sponsors

Sarah H. Davis
The Gerald R. Jordan
Foundation
Marilyn Kucharski
MERGE Boston

Supporting Sponsors

Wiley McCarthy
Adaptive Controls/
Migneault Electrical
The Sanders Family

Levine Orthodontics/
Dr. Sam Levine
Christine & Carl Nelson
Kate Poverman &
Dr. Raphael Bueno
Rockland Trust
Professional Capital Services
Smith, Sullivan & Brown, P.C.



Restaurant Sponsors

Bastille Kitchen
Fox Grape Catering
The Townshend
The Catered Affair
Michael's Deli



Beverage Sponsors

Berkshire Mountain
Distillers
Lagunitas Brewing Company
Purity Organic
Klinkerbrick Winery
Mettler Family Vineyards
Van Ruiten Family Winery



Sponsors

The Fenway Group
Serenade Chocolatier
Winston Flowers
Brookline Ice Company

