Many of our monkey helpers have transitioned from active service to aftercare due to their age or health related reasons. These special monkey helpers have given so much to so many over the years.

Monkeys in Aftercare - By the Numbers

- Average amount of hours dedicated by a retired service monkey to help a recipient: 38 years old
- Total cost of the aftercare program: $267,256
- Number of monkeys helped in aftercare has more than tripled since 2015:
  - 2015: 19
  - 2016: 27
  - 2017: 33
  - 2018: 28
  - 2019: 28

- Age of oldest monkey helper: Becky, the Queen Bee of the Monkey College!
- There are 29 monkey helpers retired from service living at The Monkey College.

*Some monkeys in retirement are paired with special care families caring for The Monkey College. Making Monkey community living at The Monkey College possible. For the donation of new beds, we are deeply grateful.

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Stay Connected!
As always, thank you for making our work possible. You have made a difference in the lives of all the recipients we have helped over the years and your support is what allows us to continue to serve our recipients and ensure the health and well-being of our special service monkeys. Thank you!

We are excited to share with you more information about the lives of our service monkeys who have entered retirement and are now in our Aftercare Program. Since a Helping Hands’ service monkey lives 30-40 years (as compared to 20-25 years in the wild), and we have been training and placing monkeys for 41 years now, we have seen an increase in the number of monkeys in our Aftercare Program. Whenever a monkey returns to The Monkey College from a placement, our training staff evaluates the health of the monkey and considers the monkey’s age to determine if it is time to retire a monkey from service. Thanks to the excellent care that our training staff provides, we have been caring for over 40 monkeys for over 10 years, and we are committed to caring for these special monkeys that have given so much to so many people during their lifetimes.

I hope you enjoy learning more about our Aftercare Program and what it means for our retired monkey helpers. I also hope you will consider joining our Sponsor a Monkey program so we can continue to provide these monkeys with the care they deserve throughout the remainder of their time with us.

With gratitude,

Angela Lett
Executive Director

At a Glance
All Helping Hands monkey helpers receive the highest level of care and attention, including our retirees. The Aftercare Program is specifically dedicated to providing the highest quality care for service monkeys that have retired due to age or other health related reasons. This means, that in addition to the regular ongoing care provided to monkey helpers at The Monkey College, retirees follow a regimen and activity schedule that is tailored to their aging needs. Retired monkey helpers develop health related issues, such as diabetes, weakening bones, poor eye sight, or require a specific nutritional routine that will aid them in staying healthy throughout their later years. Currently, there are 29 retired monkey helpers living at the Monkey College.

At one point or another, every Helping Hands monkey helper will transition into the Aftercare Program. Aftercare at Helping Hands has recently become a critical area of need due to an increase in the number of retirees. It is because of the continued and stalwart support of friends like you, that program retirees receive the necessary care to comfortably live out their golden years.

What is it like to care for a Monkey Helper in Retirement?
Did you know that because of the excellent care provided by Helping Hands our monkey helpers live, on average, between 30-40 years? We believe that these special monkeys, who have given so much to others in need, deserve to be cared for throughout their golden years. This means that our monkey helpers continue to thrive throughout their retirement years.

The life of a retiree includes lots of love and care from trainers and volunteers. A day in the life of a retired monkey helper includes playtime with their monkey friends, catching some sunlight on the windowsills, daily enrichment activities, and even watching TV—yes, TV. Most importantly, the daily life of a monkey helper includes regular high-quality veterinary care. Each monkey helper is assessed daily to ensure their optimal health, and if they need medicine or other nutritional supplements, we provide it.

The Aftercare Program represents nearly 24% of the Helping Hands budget, and it costs about $9,000 to care for one retiree each year. Current program costs include:

- Veterinary visits
- Supplies
- Meals & nutritional supplements
- Housing

Options for Becoming a Sponsor

- Spike Koko
- Koko

There are two veterinary technicians on staff to care for activists at the Monkey College.

Part of our mission is to provide the best care available to our retired monkey helpers as well as those still placed or awaiting placement. This year, we launched a newly minted Sponsor a Monkey Program aimed at growing financial support and awareness for our monkeys in retirement. The Sponsor a Monkey Program has four distinct levels and each provides benefits and a specialized engagement plan. Donors get their very own sponsorship certificate, renewable each year. Interested in enrolling? Call the development office at (617) 787-4419 x101 or visit the program website at monkeyhelpers.org.

Small hands, big hearts! Retired monkey helpers have dedicated years to provide independence, self-respect, joy, and a sense of empowerment to their human partners.

How much does it cost Helping Hands to care for one retired helper?

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