



CALIFORNIA EVENT

On Saturday, May 19th over 150 guests joined us at the Real D Studios in Beverly Hills for a family-friendly, fun evening of wine, chocolate, soda, and ice cream tastings. It was so wonderful to welcome old and new friends and to spend time with recipients, and donors on the West Coast.

There was something for everyone, from age 12 to 92... gourmet cheese toasts, unique flavored sodas, wine from around the world, chocolates, and uncommonly flavored ice cream, like lavender honey. Cheers of delight emanated from the "straw game" where children (and adults!) could purchase chances to win fabulous prizes.

Our silent auction was a dizzying array of wine baskets, movie baskets, unique opportunities like a movie premiere and after party tickets, defensive driving classes, autographed merchandise, orchids, sweet goodies, and much more. The bidding was heated for a walk on role for the TV show CSI!

We screened our film: "And then a Monkey" which shares the stories of six recipients, how they came to find us and in turn, their monkey helper, as well as the history of our program. Trillium Studios has done a wonderful job telling our stories on film, and there were many people reaching for tissues throughout the audience.

By the end of the night, everyone was full, happy, and had made some new friends. Best of all, we raised over \$15,000 for our Training and Placement Program!

Thank you to everyone who attended, donated, gave an auction item, and volunteered their time; in particular, John Kelly Chocolate, Galco's Soda Pop, and Carmela Ice Cream. A special and heart felt thank you to our three event chairs Susan Ciccone, Cynthia Chvatal, and Linda Dean, pictured on the right with Corrine. They created and organized the entire event, and without their tireless dedication, creativity, and fun spirit, this evening would not have been possible.



YOUTH EDUCATION PROGRAM



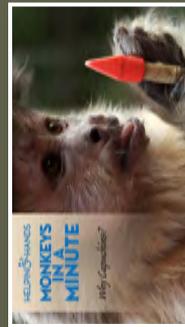
Since 1998, Helping Hands has endeavored to educate school aged children through our Spinal Cord Injury Prevention Program (SCIPP). SCIPP has been presented to thousands of school children and young adults every

year, informing and educating them about safety and the prevention of injuries during daily recreational activities. In 2012, we began the process of updating and restructuring this program.

We are proud to announce our new Youth Education Program entitled: "Living Permanently Enabled." This fun and lively 30-45 minute presentation includes more information about disability awareness, traumatic injury prevention, and the concept of becoming permanently enabled in one's own life. Helping Hands Staff give an overview of our service animals and then focus on teaching strategies for resilience and making the choice to live permanently enabled. Through interactive

activities, film clips, photos, and questions, our staff delivers a dynamic program promoting a message of resilience and awareness in an age appropriate manner.

Currently we can only do presentations in the local area. If you are interested in hosting or sponsoring a Helping Hands Youth Education Program for your classroom or organization, please email Erica Noyes at erican@monkeyhelpers.org or call (617) 787-4419 ext. 105.



This new, monthly series of short films has been created to share the training building blocks, Monkey College fun facts, and real stories about the incredible impact our monkey helpers make. Our hope is that you will enjoy this special look "behind the scenes" and that you experience the impact your donation, support, and volunteer efforts make in all areas of our program. Episodes are debuted through our e-Newsletter and can be found on our website. Sign up for the monthly e-Newsletter and be among the first to see each **Monkeys in a Minute** premiere.

STAFF

- Megan Talbert**, Executive Director
- Andrea Rothfelder**, Director of Development and Communication
- Alison Payne**, Director of Training
- Jennifer Dowdy**, Placement Trainer/Manager of Husbandry Staff and Volunteer Development
- Erica Noyes**, Development and Communication Associate
- Allyson Migneault**, Placement Trainer/Veterinary Technician
- Jennifer Evans**, Placement Trainer
- Natalie Shelton**, Placement Trainer
- Skott Wade**, Office Manager
- Marie Waitkevich**, Associate Director of Healthcare, Veterinary Technician
- Kelly Doherty**, Occupational Therapist and Placement Specialist
- Joe Murphy**, Husbandry Assistant



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News from the Monkey College

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PLACEMENT UPDATE: Through the Looking Glassie

My name is Corinne. I'm 53 years old, married to Bill for 33 years, have a daughter, Kelly, who is about to graduate from college and I have M.S. My first symptoms started at age 18, with relapsing/remitting attacks for 20 years at which point my condition turned progressive quickly leaving me paralyzed (except for my right arm and hand).

During the last ten years of relapsing/remitting, I followed my heart and went to work for an animal organization caring for domestic and wild animals. Eventually, the time came when I could no longer work. I applied for and received a service dog from Canine Companions for Independence and had a wonderful 10 years with Fred. About 5 years ago, I saw a story about Helping Hands and I knew that I needed a monkey and a monkey needed me.

After four years of having my monkey, Glassie, my family and I have settled into our perfect routine. In the beginning, it was a challenge, to say the least. Every family member wanted to play with her, justifiably so... she's so darn cute! But, under the instructions of the Helping Hands staff who encouraged the others to ignore her (actually, they insisted), I was able to create an incredible relationship with her.

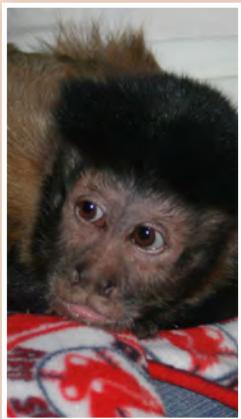
However, all of her devotion flew out the window when my daughter's boyfriend, Danny, came over. She fell "head over heels" (literally) in love. She would smack her lips, jump up and down, and squeeeeee! She made it perfectly clear that HE was HER boyfriend. This behavior posed a bit of a problem because she ignored me completely when he was around.

Helping Hands told us Danny would have to break up with her. (Break up with Glassie, that is.) This meant he could not even acknowledge her with a glance. This strategy seemed to work after a couple of weeks and the kids moved from home and went off to college. Glassie resumed her devotion to me and eagerly showed off the skills SHE learned in college!

The dynamics of the family have since changed. Now, besides being the official cage cleaner/bath giver/servant, Bill has slipped into a new role - "play buddy". While playing with Bill, Glassie always glances my way to see if I'm watching. I purposely look away to avoid the guilty, "I'm sorry, Mommy" reaction. These play episodes have turned into a nightly ritual. Bill comes home from work, I get on my computer with my back turned to them while they have their playtime.

Because of my role at the top of the hierarchy, Glassie never plays with me. She does, however, make sure every imaginary bug is off my head. I love her grooming. I just have to be on top of her manicures... ouch! That brings me to my favorite activity with her - filing nails. I only have use of one hand, so carrying out this task is challenging to me. But, despite having to fetch the dropped nail file several times, she absolutely loves it! She holds out her hand or foot for me to file while the index finger on her free hand is stuck in her ear. Sometimes she gets so "zoned out" she drools all over me! All of her hard work of endless "fetching" is all worth it in her mind. I call this our "Monday Manicure."

Glassie gives me SO MANY memorable moments. I am so blessed! If I were to say one thing to someone thinking about applying for a monkey, it would be to buckle up for an adventurous challenge. Along with glorious feelings of having a constant companion to shower you with love and excessive grooming, there will be a time when the proverbial honeymoon is over. The love never ends, the novelty never ends and the fun never ends, but it is a big responsibility. It's taken me a day to write this because I have to (want to) give Glassie my undivided attention. She's the main part of my day. Patience, the support of caregivers, and following the instructions and advice of the Helping Hands training staff are all an important key to success.



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends,

With your help, the last twelve months have been a breakthrough time for telling Helping Hands' story across the country – through film, online newsletter, our 3,400 Facebook friends, and countless tweets. The instant feedback we have received from new and long standing supporters has been inspiring.

If you haven't had the chance to spend some time with George, Judy, and Sophie by watching "Judy and Sophie's Story", I invite you to go to our website to do so. Our filmmakers Cary and Yari Wolinsky, once again, managed to give us a remarkable inside view into our mission and the power of our monkey helpers.

We are constantly reminded that one of the key differences between Helping Hands and other service animal organizations is where the animals are actually being of service. The partnership between our recipients and their monkeys, along with the love and laughter that emanates from that special relationship, can only be seen within the walls of their home environments. Therefore, we continue to strive to find ways to share this most intimate and powerful bond with each and every one of you, so that you, too can witness what our placement team and trainers experience through their work.

You share our belief in our mission, and through these new tools, we aim to give you an even deeper understanding of everything that goes into making each placement possible. Moreover, our hope is to reach even more potential recipients, to educate those in need, and to highlight the benefits to the people living with a variety of physical disabilities.

THANK YOU for continuing to spread the word about Helping Hands. Every online newsletter that is forwarded, every Facebook share, and every re-"tweet" brings us closer to our supporters and opens new doors for us around the globe. Most importantly, sharing Helping Hands' story allows us to expand our mission services and help more people seeking the independence and companionship our special monkeys provide.

Warm regards,

Megan Talbert
Executive Director

MEET A MONKEY: Mandy



Mandy is a funny little monkey who recently moved into the Monkey College from her foster home to continue her training. Her hilarious antics keep our staff and volunteers entertained on a daily basis. We have several large yoga balls in the playroom at Helping Hands - Mandy's favorite activity is to jump up and down on top of the biggest one, roll off, and start the process all over again! This has obviously become one of the trainers' favorite things to watch, as well. During quiet moments, Mandy loves to show respect and affection by gently grooming her trainer's hair. We are all thrilled to welcome Mandy to college!



MONKEY HELPERS' ANNUAL FOOD FESTIVALE

Saturday, October 13th

VIP Reception, 5-6pm

Festivale, 6-9pm

WGBH Studios, One Guest Street, Boston

Lisa Flores and the event committee have been working hard to bring you the best Festivale ever – we are happy to report that plans are really rolling along. We are thrilled to welcome the band *Tuesday Night Squabble* to the event this year, as well as our special guest emcee, Jenny Johnson. Jenny is the executive producer and co-host of NECN's TV Diner. We are proud to have Grey Goose Vodka as a beverage sponsor again this year, as well as welcoming restaurants Mistral, L'Andana, Teatro, Sorellina, Moo... ., Masa, Rialto, The Catered Affair, Market, Zocalo, Eastern Standard, and Trade. VIP ticket holders will be treated to a very special wine tasting with wine expert, Michael Wellikoff, from MS Walker.



Silent auction items are pouring in – such as a pair of hand painted shoes signed by actor Ryan Reynolds, a limited edition X-Box Kinect Star Wars bundle, and a private tour for 4 people here at the Monkey College. Mark your calendars, even if you are not in the Boston area! The online portion of our auction opens September 24 – biddingforgood.com/monkeyhelpers. Tickets are on sale now on our website, monkeyhelpers.org/festivale. Want to get involved? Please contact Erica at erican@monkeyhelpers.org, for volunteer, sponsorship, or donation opportunities.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT: Natalie Shelton

The series of events that led me to working as a trainer were serendipitous. After graduating from Wheaton College with a degree in psychobiology in 2005, I landed a part-time position working with tamarind monkeys at Harvard University. While this gave me great primate experience, it wasn't quite enough to pay the bills, and I took a second job as a barista at Starbucks. While working a shift, I happened to meet a trainer from Helping Hands. I was intrigued by the work she did, and inquired about volunteer opportunities. After volunteering for a year and a half, I was lucky enough to get a training position in June of 2009. Who knew that brewing coffee would lead to this?

The monkeys' intelligence and funny antics never fail to put a smile on my face. I feel blessed to be able to work so closely with these bright, sweet animals. Aside from training my monkeys, one of my favorite aspects of my job is helping to educate young people in local schools and camps about Helping Hands through our Youth Education Program. This program aims to teach kids about the population we serve, what our monkeys can do, what it might be like to live with a permanent disability, and tips for resiliency in their everyday lives. Helping Hands is a favorite topic of conversation of mine, so this role suits me perfectly!

Outside of monkey training, you can find me playing percussion with the Cambridge Symphony Orchestra. I was able to combine both my passions through a CSO concert to benefit disabled veterans this past May, at which Helping Hands was a featured beneficiary. I was excited to help Helping Hands reach a new network of people through this event, and to raise awareness for the work we do here, as we can't do it without our supporters!

