



# HELPING HANDS

MONKEY HELPERS ANNUAL REPORT 2014



# DEAR FRIENDS,

Putting together our Annual Report every year is a valuable opportunity for reflection. We take the time to look back and recognize accomplishments that have a special glow—and also look forward to things we are striving to achieve.

As always, we commend our Training and Placement staff for devoting countless hours to teaching the monkeys and pouring their hearts and minds into modeling the deeply committed, interactive relationship that sustains successful placements. Once their work at The Monkey College is done, they gracefully transfer that relationship to the monkey's recipient. They then spend the subsequent months and years encouraging, teaching, and otherwise supporting each partnership. This extraordinary group of people does the core work of our mission, and we are most fortunate to have them as part of our team.

Throughout the year, we also celebrate the special excitement that the first week any new placement holds. That moment when the culmination of years of preparation gives us the first glimpse of the love and fascination that will characterize the recipient and monkey's future together. And even more rewarding are those encounters that come years later, when the initial thrill has matured into an unbreakable bond and commitment between the two. Providing veterinary care, equipment improvements, support, and advice provides us with a deep feeling of satisfaction and is a crucial part of our commitment to lifetime care for each of our treasured service animals.

Finally, there is the appreciation that comes from working side by side with our donors to keep our unique program available. We are each a link in a chain of people who share a compassion for others and a belief in the power of the human-animal bond. There is great comfort and pride in being part of this community—people, like you, who have supported this caring program for more than 35 years, and who are committed to building its future.

The Board of Directors and staff are firmly focused on our strategic charges: to move our training center to a purpose-built facility outside the city in the next five years, to expand our operations to sustain a growing number of active placements, and to provide the best quality of care for our monkey helpers. We are determined to support Helping Hands: Monkey Helpers' life-changing services long into the future and are deeply appreciative of all of you who share in and support that determination.

With gratitude,



Megan Talbert, Executive Director/President



Susan Keyes, Chair of the Board





## MEET A MONKEY

Dougie is a particularly recognizable student at The Monkey College with his big ears and prominent cheek bones. Our staff and volunteers agree that he has the softest hair of all of our monkeys! Not only is he popular with his human friends, Dougie also enjoys spending time in the playroom everyday with fellow monkeys, grooming and soaking up the sun in the windows.

Dougie loves the challenge of breaking shelled walnuts and his favorite toy is a purple stuffed dinosaur. When he's not in training and has some cuddle time with his trainer, he will gently take her hand, and strategically guide it under his head to use as a pillow.

## OUR MISSION

Established in 1979, Helping Hands: Monkey Helpers for the Disabled is a national non-profit 501(c)3 organization that raises and trains capuchin monkeys to provide daily assistance to people living with spinal cord injury or other mobility impairments. Helping Hands supports each service monkey and his or her human partner during their many years together through interactive mentoring of the placement, and close supervision of the monkey's behavioral, nutritional, and veterinary needs. Relying on private contributions, Helping Hands provides these specially trained service animals and their lifetime support free of charge to our recipients.





## 2014 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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*Chair Emeritus*

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Lynn Trimby, Treasurer

Jane Yusen

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*Director of Training*

Marie Gordon

*Associate Director of Health Care*

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*Director of Individual Giving*

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*Placement Trainer*

Natalie Shelton

*Placement Trainer*

Joe Murphy

*Husbandry Assistant*

# FINANCIAL REPORT *by Lynn Trimby, Treasurer*

Helping Hands completed another successful year in 2014. For the fiscal year ending December 31, 2014, we reported total unrestricted revenues and gains of \$1,485,620 and total expenses of \$1,420,386, resulting in an increase in net assets of \$55,734.

Our revenue goals for 2014 were ambitious, representing our commitment to our strategic and capacity building plans. Although we fell short of expectations in some categories, we made up for it in others and our cash flow exceeded budget as we received funds from pledges made in prior years. In addition, we secured \$190,000 in foundation multi-year pledges that will be paid in 2015/2016. We also received \$130,000 in bequests in 2014, which were not in the budget.

Our program expenses increased \$98,500 over last year, but were below our budget. As part of our strategic and capacity building initiatives, we added four new staff positions: Director of Individual Giving, Level 1 Trainer, Monkey Handler/Vet Tech and Social Worker/Placement Specialist. For the year staffing expenses were actually lower than expected, as it took longer to identify and hire our new staff than anticipated. The Strategic Plan also included renovations to the building in 2014 to maximize the functionality of our space. These changes included the creation of a quarantine housing room for monkeys that are visiting or new to the building and administrative space to accommodate new staff. Over 13% (\$193,790) of last year's budget was earmarked for capacity building and strategic initiatives and we completed and/or made progress toward all of those goals.

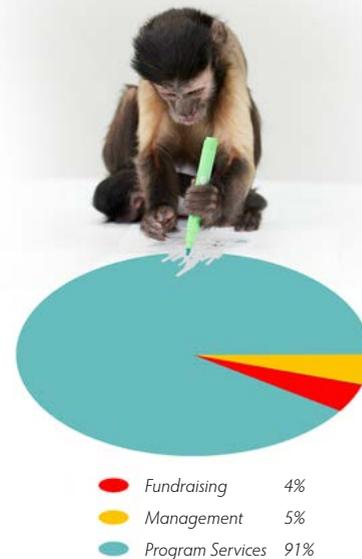
Over the course of the year, our investment portfolios provided modest positive returns, in line with the financial markets and our conservative investment strategy. At the end of the year, the total value of our investments was \$1,131,745, which includes \$275,000 of restricted funds. These investments generated \$29,523 in dividends and interest, which was reinvested. Our restricted portfolios provided an annual payout of 5%, or \$10,347 last year. In addition, we have over \$485,000 in cash reserves, the balance of the \$500,000 one-time gift we received in 2013. We continue to make progress toward our goal of building unrestricted reserves to the equivalent of one full year's operating expenses.

Our major goals for 2015 are: to maximize fundraising opportunities to support the increased needs for the annual operating budget and to prepare for the future by developing and implementing a plan for capital fundraising focused on a new facility. To accomplish these goals our 2015 budget includes increases in both revenues and expenses, with 15% of expenses earmarked for capacity building and strategic plan activities. Overall the organization is in a strong financial position, ending the year with \$3,823,124 in net assets and no debt except for our mortgage.



## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	<i>Audited Year Ended December 31, 2014</i>	<i>Audited Year Ended December 31, 2013</i>
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 1,024,083	\$ 967,742
Pledges Receivable	\$ 255,000	\$ 310,000
Investments - Unrestricted	\$ 856,745	\$ 852,184
Other Assets	\$ 2,648,806	\$ 2,690,497
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 4,784,634</b>	<b>\$ 4,820,423</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Mortgage Payable	\$ 918,909	\$ 1,015,025
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	\$ 42,601	\$ 47,520
Line of Credit	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 961,510</b>	<b>\$ 1,062,545</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Unrestricted	\$ 3,548,124	\$ 3,482,878
Temporarily Restricted	\$ -	\$ -
Permanently Restricted	\$ 275,000	\$ 275,000
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 3,823,124</b>	<b>\$ 3,757,878</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 4,784,634</b>	<b>\$ 4,820,423</b>



## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

	<i>Audited Year Ended December 31, 2014</i>	<i>Audited Year Ended December 31, 2013</i>
<b>Revenue, Gains and Other Support</b>		
Contributions/Grants	\$ 1,439,023	\$ 1,926,280
Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Investments	\$ (68,248)	\$ 69,833
Realized Gain (Loss) on Sale of Investments	\$ 52,116	\$ 42,112
Investment Income	\$ 62,729	\$ 62,430
Net Assets Released from Restriction	\$ (9,500)	\$ -
Total Unrestricted Revenue, Gains and Other Support	\$ 1,485,620	\$ 2,100,655
<b>Expenses</b>		
Program Services	\$ 1,283,918	\$ 1,206,381
Administrative and Fundraising	\$ 136,468	\$ 115,500
Total Expenses	\$ 1,420,386	\$ 1,321,881
Increase in Unrestricted Net Assets	\$ 55,734	\$ 778,774
Changes in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	\$ -	\$ (9,500)
Changes in Permanently Restricted Net Assets	\$ -	\$ -
<b>INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS</b>	\$ 55,734	\$ 769,274
<b>NET ASSETS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	\$ 3,767,390	\$ 2,998,116
<b>NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR</b>	\$ 3,823,124	\$ 3,767,390

### 2015 GOALS

- Maximize fundraising opportunities to support the increased needs for the annual operating budget.
- Prepare for the future by developing and implementing a plan for capital fundraising focused on a new facility.



We are grateful to all of these generous individuals, foundations, and businesses for their support of Helping Hands. Their support and donations enable us to create and support priceless partnerships.

We also appreciate all the federal, state, local, and municipal employees who make their donations through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC # 11196) or Independent Charities of America.

**\$100,000 +**

Jane's Trust  
The Robmar Foundation  
The Bernice and Milton Stern Foundation

**\$ 25,000 +**

C. Graham Berwind, III  
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**\$1,000 +**

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 Christopher Young  
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\* Denotes Monthly Sustaining Donors

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 Lisa Flores  
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 Holland & Knight  
 Kevin Lewis Design  
 MS Walker  
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## A LETTER OF GRATITUDE

We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you. Thank you to everyone for supporting this wonderful organization. We know how having this little 6 pound capuchin has improved our lives and can only imagine how others' lives have been transformed as well.

We always hear, over the course of a lifetime, that “things can change in an instant.” Although we understand the meaning of those words, it never quite hits home until it happens in your own life.

Such was the case for our family. On August 2, 2006, Kent was driving around Western Massachusetts—an active family man, chef, and handyman. In the blink of an eye, an auto accident left him with a spinal cord injury—paralyzed from the chest down.

Kent was away an entire year in rehabilitation centers and to educate myself on spinal cord injuries, I ordered the Christopher Reeve Paralysis Resource Guide. There was a chapter on service animals and as I turned the pages, I noticed a man in a wheelchair with a tiny monkey sitting on his shoulder. The article was about Helping Hands and I was immediately interested.

When Kent came home, we adjusted to our new “normal”—days filled with managing a staff of PCAs coming and going from our home, overseeing Kent’s care, appointments, and rehabilitation. When I brought up the idea of a service monkey, he was hesitant; worried that this would be something “extra” that might bring more challenges into our life. After months of reading and watching Helping Hands website videos, we decided to apply for the program.

It has now been 6 years since we welcomed Farah into our home, and she is the sparkling light that shines over our challenging world. From our morning hellos, to our afternoon family time, to our evening flirting and hooting exchanges...true love, from the heart of hearts is all I can say.

Kent and I have grown together, with Farah as part of our immediate family. Our days are not fully complete unless the three of us spend time together. Often times, when Kent and I have “alone” time with no PCAs and/or other distractions, we talk and laugh about our little girl and her funny antics. Like when she tries her best to nonchalantly groom our cat, Pete, until he realizes it’s a MONKEY and not me and makes a run for it. Or when she climbs our apple tree (on a leash, of course), catching tasty ants or picking and bringing us apples.

When I see Kent and Farah together I see a sparkle in Kent’s eye that shows me the true love he and Farah share...the way she tilts her head and flirts...those little brown eyes looking so lovingly into his...the way she brings him things he needs, like the phone or the remote.

Being part of the Helping Hands family is just that, a family. From day one, we have felt supported and cared for. Helping Hands was and continues to be here for us—to answer any questions that might come up or to babysit Farah if the need arises.

I can’t tell you how much our lives have improved with the blessing of our little helper monkey, Farah. Where there was a darkness, there’s now a light...a sparkling, small, funny, hyper, obedient, protesting, gentle, and unpredictable family friend...that’s our Farah! Without your support, we most likely wouldn’t be writing this now. The generosity of so many compassionate people who obviously believe in this amazing service that provides the opportunity to people whose lives have been seriously affected by personal circumstances, says more than our rambling words can truly express. THANK YOU just doesn’t seem enough...gratitude to infinity.

Sincerely, Nancy Converse, wife of recipient, Kent Converse





**HELPING HANDS**<sup>SM</sup>  
MONKEY HELPERS

541 Cambridge Street, Boston, MA 02134 617.787.4419 [www.monkeyhelpers.org](http://www.monkeyhelpers.org)