OUR ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

The recipient-service monkey partnership is an interactive relationship. Clients must be able to direct the care and behavior of their service animal, and follow guidelines in training, health, and diet for their monkey in order to be successful. Applicants must meet all of the following requirements:

1 You are at least one year post-injury or post-diagnosis.

2 You can identify a reliable family member or caregiver who agrees to assist in the daily care of the monkey.

3 You spend most of your time at home.

4 You have sufficient motor ability to control a manual or electric wheelchair.

5 You have unimpaired cognitive function.

6 You are responsible, mature, and over the age of 18.

7 You can communicate verbally and in English.

8 There are no children under the age of 12 living in your home.

9 You are motivated and committed to apply for and provide long term care for a service animal.

10 You are patient, adaptable—and have a sense of humor.

Please note that the presence of certain impairments may disqualify an applicant from receiving a monkey helper:
- Significant psychiatric or emotional impairments
- Individuals who are ventilator dependent
- Blindness
- Deafness
- Heart conditions or seizures

TIM & WEBSTER'S STORY

While serving with the U.S. Marine Corps in Iraq, retired Marine Cpl. Tim Jeffers was injured by an IED explosion in May 2006. After months in recovery and rehab, Tim was able to live on his own. However, chores and everyday tasks around the house took time and were often impossible to complete without assistance. But since 2008, he has had a little help from Webster. Tim learned about Helping Hands through our collaboration with the Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund and understood the value of having a service animal in his home to help with tasks. What he didn't count on was the emotional support Webster was able to offer as he continued to deal with the lingering effects of his injuries and return home from war.

"Although I am injured, he looks up to me as his protector," says Tim. "I don't feel so depressed with him around. It is nice that someone is excited every time I come home. I would do anything for this little guy, just like he would do anything for me."

HELPING HANDS ^{SM}
MONKEY HELPERS

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This brochure was produced with support from the Ludwick Family Foundation.

HELPING HANDS ^{SM}
MONKEY HELPERS

Serving Those Who Have Served Our Country

www.monkeyhelpers.org

WHY A MONKEY?

When seeking resources to enhance your independence and add camaraderie to your life, Helping Hands service monkeys are a great resource to consider. Their small size (6-9 pounds as adults), dexterous hands, fine motor skills, and long life span combined with their unique ability to assist with many routine in-home tasks make service monkeys a good fit for wounded veterans. The tasks listed here illustrate what you and your monkey helper could accomplish together:

- Retrieve dropped or out of reach objects
- Turn on/off light switches/push buttons for TVs, computers, and other electronics
- Help with a drink of water
- Turn pages of a book or magazine
- Scratch itches
- Reposition limbs on a wheelchair

Please note there are some limitations to the range of tasks our monkey helpers can perform. They **cannot** assist with:

- Retrieving medication/pills
- Personal Needs—teeth brushing, catheters, bathing, or dressing
- Feeding and food preparation
- Dialing the phone
- Alerting an individual to an oncoming seizure or panic attack

OUR APPLICATION PROCESS

We aim to make 6-8 new placements each year. Our service monkeys are placed at **no cost** to their recipients and we provide a lifetime of active placement support to each team.

Our application is a seven-step process that includes a written application, personal and medical references, a home video, and a home visit.

Helping Hands staff members guide applicants through the entire application process step-by-step. We are here to answer all of your questions, and to ensure that we get all the information we need to determine if you are a qualified candidate, and if so, to match you with the perfect monkey helper for your needs.

For more information, please visit:
www.monkeyhelpers.org
or email apply@monkeyhelpers.org

"I have seen firsthand the positive effects of Helping Hands' work with wounded veterans and would encourage servicemen and women who have been injured while serving our country to consider this resource. This is a mutually beneficial partnership between a recipient and his/her service monkey. Working together, these teams not only accomplish everyday tasks, but also form a trusting bond that is meaningful and rewarding."

– Steve Danyluk, President and Founder of The Independence Fund

ABOUT HELPING HANDS: MONKEY HELPERS

Since 1979, Helping Hands: Monkey Helpers for the Disabled, Inc. has been serving adults with spinal cord injuries and other mobility impairments by matching them with a professionally trained service monkey to provide in-home assistance with daily tasks.

Working with men and women who have been injured while serving our country has long been a priority for Helping Hands. In fact, Helping Hands received its initial funding from the Veterans Administration and the Paralyzed Veterans of America. We also receive financial support from the Combined Federal Campaign, the only philanthropic organization authorized to solicit contributions from federal workers.

With help from the Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund, The Independence Fund, and other veterans' support groups, Helping Hands' service animals are currently assisting veterans wounded in the Gulf War and the Iraq War. We also have had placements with soldiers who served in Vietnam and even WWII.

"By having a monkey helper you don't have to ask for help. When you drop something and can't pick it up, the monkey is there to do it and you don't have to go and ask someone. It makes a huge difference in independence."

– Wendy Lethin, Co-Founder of the Semper Fi Fund