



For love and peanut butter...

Valentine's Day is just around the corner and we cannot help but feel the love in the air! Because, honestly, love is what helps fuel our program. Love for our monkeys, love for our recipients, love for our foster parents, and love for our supporters. This month, we celebrate the incredible bond and unconditional love between humans and animals.

Right now, the love is building between our newest recipient and their monkey helper, and we want you to know that you are a part of their story. We couldn't do this without your love and support, and we are grateful to you.

We also loved being featured in the February issue of [Woman's Day Magazine!](#) What a great opportunity to share our work with a wider audience. If you are reading this because of that article, welcome to the Helping Hands family!

Do you know someone who might benefit from having a service monkey? [Connect us!](#)



Beyond the Tasks

One of the things we hear all the time from our recipients is that the relationship they have with their monkey, the love and deep connection, is what they have found to be most rewarding. When they apply for the program, they are most interested in the tasks their monkey can do to give them more independence, never expecting the emotional bond to end up being the most important part of the relationship.

Hear from Mary Kay about her relationship with Amy, and how it is so much more than what she expected in one of our original Monkeys in a Minute episodes, [Beyond the Tasks](#).

Meet a Monkey: Sophie!

Sophie is a super sweet monkey who we lovingly refer to as our little starlet! She has been featured in both a short media piece ([Great Big Story](#)) and a longer film ([Judy and Sophie's Story](#)).

Sophie was paired with Judy until her passing in 2013, when she returned to The Monkey College.

She loves everybody and is super cuddly with her trainer. "You can tell when Sophie is super comfortable with someone," says Marissa, her trainer. "Because she starts doing these incredible yoga poses! She will bring her foot up and put her toe either in her ear, on her forehead, or up her nose."

[Read more about Sophie](#)



Leadership Changes

In January we welcomed Judith Hindman, Aaron Rissler, and Erin Seiden as new members of the Board of Directors of Helping Hands: Monkey Helpers. They each bring unique experiences and expertise and will be great assets to our organization. You can learn more about them on our [website](#).

We also want to thank Stephanie Rogers and Alan Solarz for their service on the board as they move on to new opportunities. Your commitment, passion, and energy have benefited Helping Hands immeasurably.

If you are interested in the process of becoming a Board Member, please visit our [website](#) to learn more about the role of the Board of Directors.

Be a Capuchin Caretaker

The month of February is often thought of as the month of love. What better way to show your love than to become a Capuchin Caretaker? Our dedicated group of monthly donors helps provide steady funding to The Monkey College year-round, ensuring each and every monkey has the snuggliest blankets and most delicious snacks.

This Valentine's Day, consider joining this great group of individuals who not only provide monthly support, but are some of the first to learn about new articles, events, and films!

[Learn more about becoming a Capuchin Caretaker.](#)



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