On November 30th, 29 members of the Painting and Decorating Contractors of America, New England Council, gathered at The Monkey College to paint the interior of the building. New England Council president, Nigel Costolloe, organized the entire day and helped to coordinate painters from Catchlight Painting, Jerry Enos Painting, Castle Complements Painting, Excel Painting, Inc., Ord Specialty Coatings, Paul Corey Painting, and Kurt Dwyer Painting. With paint and color design generously donated by Benjamin Moon, (thank you Stanley White for the great color concept!) nearly 350 hours were donated in repainting The Monkey College with low VOC paint that is safe for both humans and monkeys alike. Together the value of supplies and labor is equal to an in-kind donation valued at over $20,000. Amazingly, this all happened in ONE day! Thanks to their generosity, we now have a beautiful new color scheme and many new friends. If you would like to see all the photos of the transformation, please visit us on Facebook – www.facebook.com/monkeyhelpers.

A FRESH NEW LOOK

MEET A MONKEY: Gwen

Gwen is a sweet, inquisitive little monkey who has very recently joined us at The Monkey College to begin her training after her time in a loving foster home. Now that she is all settled into her new surroundings, she is beginning her monkey helper training and working on “bell training.”

Bell training is the first step our monkeys take in their schooling. The bell is introduced in the first training room, The Cubicle. In this sound-proof, distraction-free room, monkeys actually start “learning how to learn.” When bell training, a trainer waits until her monkey student looks in her direction and then produces a lick of peanut butter while ringing a bell and saying “Good girl/boy!” Eventually the monkey associates the sound of the bell with the praise and a healthy treat. The bell becomes an instant indicator that the monkey is getting a reward. Reaching within a split second of the correct behavior is crucial to our monkeys learning exactly which behavior they are being praised for. The bell is used to train in The Cubicle and The B-Room and then is slowly phased out and replaced by only verbal praise and peanut butter, and then eventually just verbal praise.

When Gwen is not working in The Cubicle, she loves to cuddle with and be brushed by her trainer, Allyson. She is a social girl, who really likes to flirt with the big boy monkeys when they are together in the playroom. A very curious monkey, she also enjoys the enrichment room where she can climb around looking for hidden treats and toys.

Even though Gwen is at the beginning of her training and still has many tasks to learn, her sweet nature and social personality indicate that she is going to be a wonderful companion to someone in the future!
Bradley was a very active young man—never comfortable sitting still, he ran. Then, at age 18, Bradley hit his head in a diving accident, shattering his C6 vertebra. Just graduated from high school, facing endless possibilities, he ran. Then, at age 18, Bradley hit his head in a diving accident, shattering his C6 vertebra. Just graduated from high school, facing endless possibilities, he ran. Then, at age 18, Bradley hit his head in a diving accident, shattering his C6 vertebra. Just graduated from high school, facing endless possibilities, he ran. Then, at age 18, Bradley hit his head in a diving accident, shattering his C6 vertebra. Just graduated from high school, facing endless possibilities, he ran. Then, at age 18, Bradley hit his head in a diving accident, shattering his C6 vertebra. Just graduated from high school, facing endless possibilities, he ran. Then, at age 18, Bradley hit his head in a diving accident, shattering his C6 vertebra. 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