



Greetings from the Executive Director

Monkey Week is almost here!

MONKEY WEEK – “Is that real?” you ask. Well to be honest we invented it! Since 2000 Monkey Day has been celebrated on December 14. Originally created by contemporary artists Casey Sorrow and Eric Millikin, when the two were students at Michigan State University, the day is often celebrated to raise awareness about different species of primates and the issues in their conservation.



At Helping Hands: Monkey Helpers we have taken the one day, and turned it into a week of celebrating the vast accomplishments of our capuchins and the services they provided to hundreds of adults living with mobility impairments.

As 2021 comes to an end our goal is to continue to provide outstanding, ongoing support for our current recipients and their monkey helpers for as long as needed. Additionally, we will continue to administer a safe and healthy environment for our post-service and medically challenged monkeys for the rest of their lives at our state-of-the-art Monkey Living Center or one of our Special Care Homes.

It is only natural for us then to invent MONKEY WEEK to honor our monkeys! We kick things off a bit early with an [online auction](#) starting December 8 and running through December 16. I think you will enjoy each item, and you may find a few unique holiday gifts!

MONKEY WEEK complete with social media and a live monkey bath (on Facebook December 14!) is December 12-18.

Finally, for anyone who needs help staying organized - don't forget to get a [2022 Helping Hands calendar](#).

I hope you join us for MONKEY WEEK and celebrate our sweet capuchins.

Sincerely,

Diane S. Nahabedian

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Executive Director

P.S. Be sure to follow us on Social Media to see all our MONKEY WEEK activities, stories, and fun! We are on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#). And you can always watch all of our videos on [Vimeo](#)!

Monkey Week Online Auction!



Have you been dreaming about getting away? Or hosting a catered private dinner for 10 in your home? Have a friend who loves the Patriots? Or perhaps the Red Sox? Have you ever wanted to Zoom with a Helping Hands monkey? **All these and more are available in our Monkey Week Online Auction!**

Thanks to generous donors, we have a little bit of everything in our auction: art, wine, experiences, gift cards, handmade items. If you are struggling to find the perfect gift, take a look at our auction - you get a great gift and support your favorite monkeys at the same time - it is a win-win!

[Check out our auction](#)

A seven year-old brings joy to the monkeys.



Sending out a big THANK YOU to our youngest fundraiser, Liam. We got a sweet note from him the day packages started to arrive:

"My name is Liam and I am 7 years old. I have loved monkeys for my whole life. I found your website and I decided to make a fundraiser for your sweet monkeys. I put together a package of information about your foundation and sent it to my family and friends. Everyone wanted to help make your monkeys retirement the best ever. I worked really hard around my house doing extra chores to earn some money to donate too."

[Read the rest of his story on Instagram](#)

Celebrating the dedication of 2 of our new play spaces!

On November 8, we were honored to be able to dedicate 2 of our Monkey Living Center play spaces. Board Chair Robert Sanders joined us as we had a COVID safe toast to Tucker's Arcade and Ken's Fun Place!

When Doug Leenhouts decided it was time to make a career change, his company wanted to show him how much they appreciated him. They knew of his love for Helping Hands, and fundraised so that he could name a play space at the Monkey Living Center. Doug choose the name **Tucker's Arcade**, in honor of the special bond he has with Tucker.

Marita Powell from the Powell Foundation also contacted us. "We would love to have one of the play rooms named for my brother, Ken, who started us (The Powell Foundation) on this amazing journey. 'Ken's Fun Place' makes us smile, just like the monkeys who warm our hearts."



Matt Salcedo, Doug Leenhouts, Alison Payne, Diane Nahabedian, Julie Totten, and Robert Sanders



Alison Payne, Doug Leenhouts, and Tucker



Executive Director Diane Nahabedian and Board Chair Robert Sanders



Tucker's Arcade



Ken's Fun Place



Alison and Tucker "toasting" to Ken's Fun Place

If you are interested in other naming opportunities at The Monkey Living Center, please contact Julie Totten, Director of Development, or visit our website.

Birthday Round-up!

Please join us in wishing our monkeys who were born in December a very Happy Birthday!

Opie, Daniel, Toby, Blake, and Kyla!

Consider sending a new toy from our wish list as a Birthday gift!



Opie



Daniel



Toby



Blake



Kyla

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Made possible by Foundation Robmar, the Helping Hands 2022 Calendar celebrates the monkey helpers who have helped so many. We hope that each month's photo brings a smile to your face knowing that your donation helps provide for these special service animals.

Now available for purchase, a Helping Hands: Monkey Helpers calendar makes a wonderful holiday gift!

[Purchase Your Calendar Today](#)