



Greetings from the Executive Director

A Visit to Roosevelt Island

Our movies often celebrate our American individualist spirit. We have that "can-do" attitude. No obstacle is too much to overcome. And while we are an unstoppable people, sometimes we need some assistance.

Recently, I had the opportunity to visit Roosevelt Island—a narrow island in New York City's East River, within the borough of Manhattan. The Island, which has been called many other names including Welfare Island, is quiet. At one end is a statue dedicated to the man for whom the island is named—President Franklin D. Roosevelt (FDR). The statue struck me because it depicts FDR in his wheelchair holding out his hand to a young girl using crutches. Now it is no secret that FDR had polio. However, most of the time FDR was in public office, from the time he was governor of New York through his time as president it was very rare to see him in his wheelchair. He went out of his way to hide the fact that he used a wheelchair and leg braces.



Why do I bring this all up? In an excellent article on January 5, 2022, [100 Years Since FDR Contracted Polio](#) in *New/Lines Magazine* by Niamh Ni Hoireabhaird, the author wonders if things would have been better if FDR was more forthcoming? I don't know. But, looking at the statue on Roosevelt Island moved me and I thought about the work we do at Helping Hands: Monkey Helpers. Our monkeys set the tone 43 years ago. They forged the original path of lending the helping hand to someone who needed the assistance. The monkey did not judge, only helped. Now, the technology certainly will not judge, just benefit.

My hope is that you will continue to support our endeavors. All of us find ourselves in a position at least once if not more in a lifetime when we need a helping hand. Our recipients, current and new, need assistance as they grapple, as FDR did, with a physical disability. We, Helping Hands: Monkey Helpers, will be ready to help with new tools for increased independence. And perhaps, someday, we will see those we provided a helping hand become senators, governors, and/or even president of the United States!

Sincerely,

Diane S. Nahabedian
Executive Director



The Monkey Who Stole My Heart

By Lisa Brown | May 8, 2022

Lisa has been a close friend to the organization for the past 22 years, starting as a volunteer in 2000, then becoming a full-time staff member, then a foster parent to Simon, and now a dedicated member of the Board of Directors.

Her article, *The Monkey Who Stole My Heart (What Living with a Monkey Taught me about Motherhood)*, appeared in the *Boston Globe Magazine*, and we are so pleased to share it with you.

The 2021 Gratitude Report

Protecting our planet by going digital - presenting the 2021 Gratitude Report!

With sincerest gratitude we thank you for your continuing support of Helping Hands in 2021—a year full of change!

Please visit us at monkeyhelpers.org/FY21 to view the 2021 Annual Report.

Thank you for your support; we appreciate you.

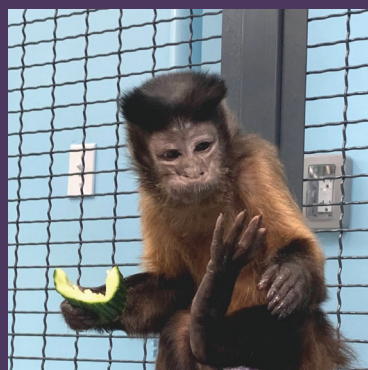


Birthday Round-up at the Monkey Living Center!

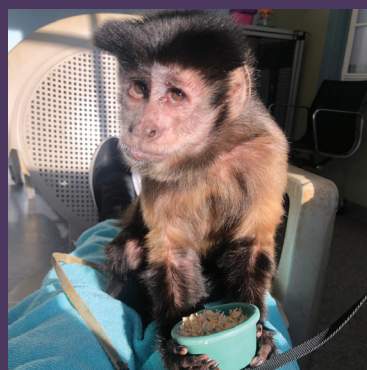
May is another BIG month for Birthdays in Boston! Please join us in wishing our monkeys born in May a very Happy Birthday!

Bernice, Milton, Mac, Bambi, Simon, Koko, Daisy, and Sammy!

Did you know you can send a gift to the Monkey Living Center in honor of our monkeys' birthdays? Check out our wishlist for our most needed items!



Bernice



Milton

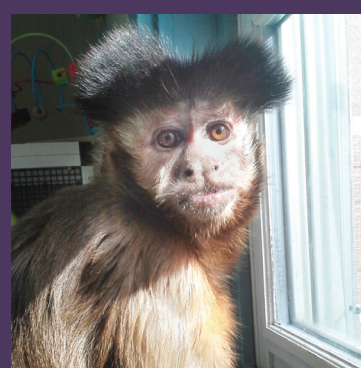


Mac

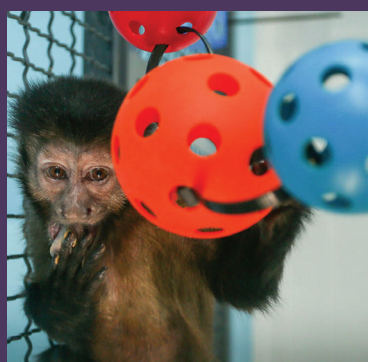


Bambi

Happy Birthday!



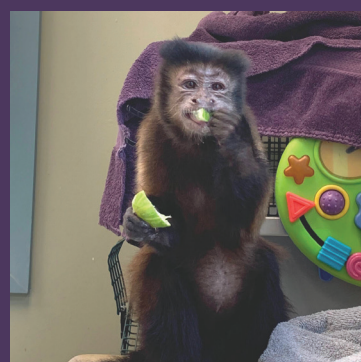
Koko



Daisy



Simon



Sammy