



Greetings from the Executive Director

We continue to fulfill our mission by transitioning from training and placing service animals to soon offering a plethora of innovative technologies to assist those living with physical disabilities live independent lives.

We are in a rare situation as we transform our organization downstairs while our beloved legacy, former service monkeys, are enjoying their post-service years upstairs.

The most remarkable aspect of this intensive undertaking are the individuals who work tirelessly, and with a great sense of humor to ensure that this transformation happens. Downstairs is the administrative team making sure the organization operates. Walk in any day and Erica, Julie, Matt, and Tatiana are busy engaging in all the functions that require a smallish nonprofit to become a national force making a difference and impact in the disability community.

Upstairs Alison, Allyson, Chelsea, Kim, and Natalie are making sure 55 energetic monkeys are staying healthy. That operation runs seven days a week. Unfortunately, our Natalie Shelton-May, placement trainer, manager of husbandry staff and volunteer development, will leave us at the end of the month for a new professional adventure. Natalie has devoted thirteen years to Helping Hands, training many service monkeys and mentoring many students and interns. We will miss Natalie, as will the monkeys, but wish her the very best on her new adventure.

As you will read below, we also want to wish our dear friend Marie-Christine the very best on her movie premiere next weekend - what an accomplishment!

Enjoy the end of your summer. Remember to join us for our September matching challenge. We cannot do this work alone—we need you! Help us to continue to provide solutions that empower those living with physical disabilities to live their best lives every day.

Diane S. Nahabedian



Diane S. Nahabedian Executive Director

Remembering our friend Ron Olsen.



Ronald G. Olsen was generous to a fault, kind, and always so supportive of our program. If you attended any of our Festival events, Red Sox events, or Theatre events in the past, you may have bumped into Ron, laughing it up with other guests and bidding on monkey art. In 2018, Ron passed away, leaving a generous bequest to his beloved monkeys. Earlier this month, we were able to reminisce about his life and loves with his cousin Nadine, who delivered his bequest. (along with a whole bunch of toys, blankets, and needed supplies!)

We know that he would be thrilled to know how much he was supporting the little monkeys that served so many physically challenged adults.

If you are interested in adding Helping Hands to your will, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Congratulations to our friend and now Executive Movie Producer, Marie-Christine Jaeger-Firmenich!

Marie-Christine had a dream—to portray the power of the human-animal bond on the big screen. And as of September 2, 2022, that dream becomes a reality as the film Gigi & Nate hits theaters. Loosely inspired by one of our recipients, the film depicts how a young man's life is turned upside down after he is left a quadriplegic. Moving forward seems near impossible until he meets his unlikely service animal, Gigi—a curious and intelligent capuchin monkey.

All of us at Helping Hands: Monkey Helpers congratulate Marie-Christine on her movie debut!



SAVE THE DATE!

We are excited to be offering two interesting and exciting Zoom events this fall! These sessions are free and open to all who are curious! Stay tuned for invitations and more information.

Wednesday, November 2, 6pm

Wednesday November 9, 6pm



Technology in the healthcare field: how is robotics, artificial intelligence (AI), and technological innovation effecting your healthcare and the world of healthcare in general.

Presented by Dr. Taskin Padir, Director of the Institute for Experiential Robotics at Northeastern University and an Amazon Scholar.

Travel through the magnificent South American Rainforest, the home of the capuchin monkey, with Louis Perrotti, Director of Conservation Programs at the Rhode Island Zoological Society/Roger Williams Park Zoo. Perrotti will discuss the many species of the Rainforest, and our role in keeping all creatures safe from extinction.

Invitations coming soon! Be sure to follow us on Facebook and Twitter for more updates. We look forward to learning together this fall!

Birthday Round-up at the Monkey Living Center!

Join us in wishing Cranston, Shelly, Siggy, Dippy, and Charlie a VERY Happy Birthday this August!

Did you know you can make a gift in honor of any occasion? Birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, and in memory gifts

Learn more



Cranston



Shelly



Siggy



Dippy



Charlie

DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT IN SEPTEMBER!

During the month of September, you have the chance to make double the difference!

If we can raise \$15,000 in September, a generous donor will MATCH that dollar for dollar.

Your generosity makes TWICE the IMPACT in September!

Throughout the month, we will be sharing the stories of Kukla & Kyla. Two Service Monkeys. Two Incredible Stories. One way to help.

We hope you will follow their stories on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram and get to know these sweet girls.

Join us starting Thursday, September 1!

