

November 19, 2022



### **Greetings from the Executive Director**

This is our last eNews for 2022. I have been pondering how to summarize this very busy and transformative year. This year we confirmed that our over 40 years of experience working in the disability arena provided us the opportunity to adapt our knowledge to build pilot projects in assistive technologies/robotics to learn how this technology may assist in daily living needs, and how virtual reality may positively impact the socialization of individuals who may otherwise be isolated. We are making a very natural progression from our beloved legacy to what technologies are best for those we have always been committed to serving – adults living with mobility impairments.



Thus, our continuing goal is to collaborate with companies and research institutions as their "go to" firm to:

- inform tech firms what is needed in disability communities both to improve their existing technologies/products as well as identify new technologies/products for next generation development;
- assist tech firms to identify and build out markets within the disability communities with a focus on both what is specifically needed in the disability communities as well as what can be considered dual-use (either as is or with some adjustment) to the larger able community; and,

investment and funding once the tech firm is beyond the 'proof of concept' stage and ready for commercialization.

We cannot do this without your support. Our end-of-year letter focuses on one of our recipients, Billy, who so eloquently discusses how he both works with his monkey Phoebe, and is assisting Helping Hands on a virtual reality pilot project. Pilot projects need you to make them happen so we can understand what technologies work and are most important, and then ensure that individuals with physical disabilities have access to the technologies they need.

All of us at Helping Hands hope you will continue to be part of this exciting dynamic transition to ensure that new exciting technologies coming on the market are put to use for good.

From all of us at Helping Hands: Monkey Helpers, we wish you the happiest holiday season.

Diane A. Mahabedian



Diane S. Nahabedian **Executive Director** 

### **Celebrating "Pati's Place"!**

A long-time friend to the organization, Pati has a monkey collection to be envied. We were so excited when she contacted us about naming one of our monkey play areas. The new play spaces help support the welfare of the post-service monkeys at the Monkey Living Center as they return from their service. They love to play in "Pati's 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.







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Billy, Phoebe, and the Future of **Helping Hands** 



Our year-end letter should be hitting mailboxes at any moment, but if you can't wait, you can read all about the new adventures for Billy and Phoebe on our website, and see how you are helping them to find now ways to open doors and expand horizons, both literally and figuratively!

Save the Date! Monkey Week is coming—December 11—17!



International Monkey Day is Tuesday, December 14, but our monkeys deserve more than one day to be celebrated, so mark your calendar and join us on Social Media to to celebrate Monkey WEEK!

Learn new facts and tidbits about the capuchin monkey, and meet some of our monkeys enjoying their post-service lives at the Monkey Living Center.

Read More



As you shop this holiday season, don't forget to smile!

# November Birthdays at the Monkey Living Center!

Join us in wishing Pawa, Samantha, Nicky, Lindsay, and Goldie a VERY Happy Birthday!

If you want to send them a birthday gift, they would love a gift certificate from nuts.com! All their delicious nutty treats come from there and we are always in need of gift certificates.

Visit nuts.com





Pawa

Samantha

Nicky









## Did you miss our Zoom Discussions?

Don't worry-we recorded them!

Watch Explorations in **Experiential Robotics with Dr. Taskin Padir** 



Dr. Taskin Padir, Associate Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Northeastern University and Amazon Scholar, discussed the four pillars of experiential robotics and challenges and opportunities for research in achieving seamless human-robot teaming.

Watch his talk survive.

# Watch Faces of the Rainforest with Lou Perrotti



Louis Perrotti, Director of Conservation Programs for the Rhode Island Zoological Society/Roger Williams Park Zoo, examined the biodiversity and fragility of the Amazon Rainforest and what he and the Roger Williams Park Zoo are doing to help the rainforest and the indigenous communities that live there to

#### Watch his talk

Both discussions support the work of Helping Hands: Monkey Helpers as we pursue the benefits of innovative technologies to assist those living with physical disabilities and support our post-service monkeys.

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