

HELPING HANDS

MONKEY HELPERS



August 16, 2016

Mission

Established in 1979, Helping Hands: Monkey Helpers for the Disabled Inc. is a national non-profit 501(c)3 organization that raises and trains capuchin monkeys to assist individuals living with physical disabilities within their home environments.

We provide lifetime active support for each service monkey and his or her human partner through interactive mentoring of the placement, and close supervision of the monkey's behavioral, nutritional, and veterinary needs.

Relying on private contributions, Helping Hands provides these specially trained service animals and their lifetime support free of charge to our recipients.



HELPING HANDS
MONKEY HELPERS

About Helping Hands

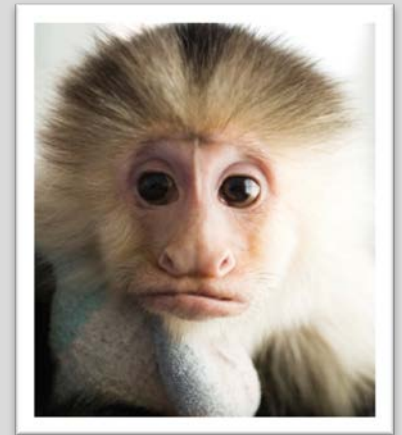
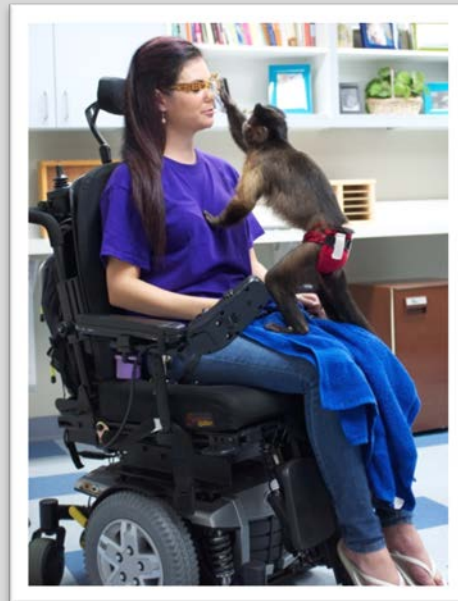
- 6 to 8 new placements each year across the U.S.
- 24/7 lifetime support nationwide for each existing placement
- Commitment to care for the lifespan of each monkey
- All placements and their lifetime support provided at no cost to our recipients
- Rated a 4-star charity by Charity Navigator
- Certified as “Best in America” by Independent Charities of America



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The Monkey College

- **Monkey see, Monkey do: Imitation Based Training**
- **Positive reinforcement**
- **Verbal praise & small food rewards**
- **Relationship based with individual trainers**

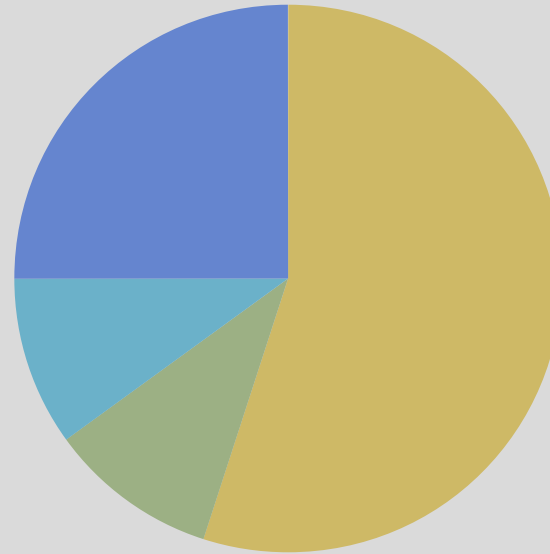
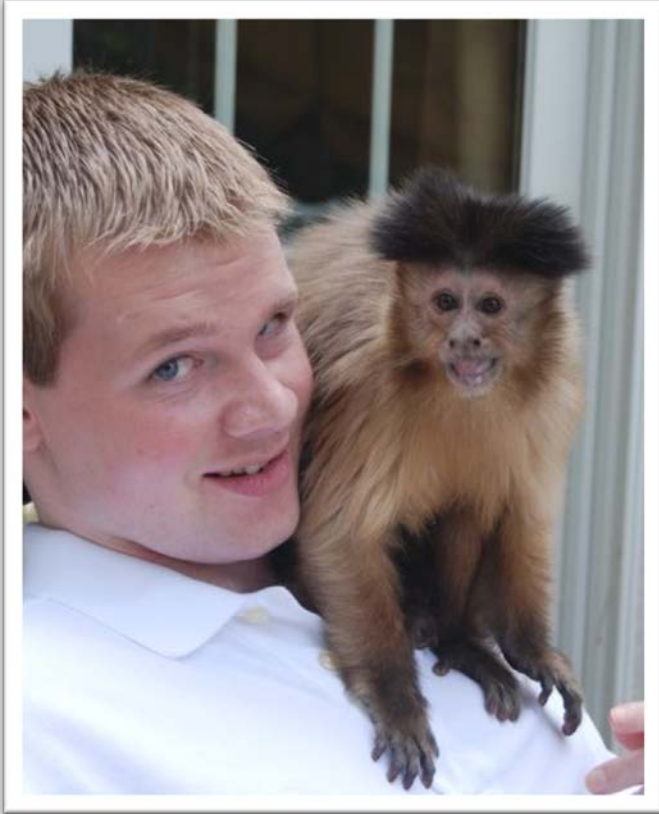


Tasks

- All tasks within the home environment only
- Fetch objects (phones, remotes, mouth-sticks)
- Turn pages in books or magazines
- Scratch itches
- Open water bottles
- Flip light switches
- Push buttons
- Load CDs/DVDs
- Monkeys are not taught any task requiring medications or other medical care



Who We Serve

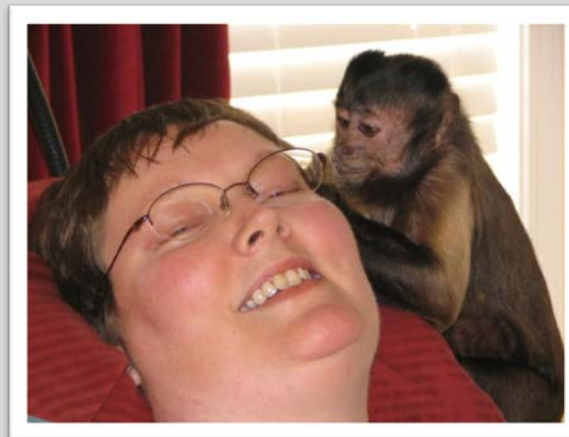


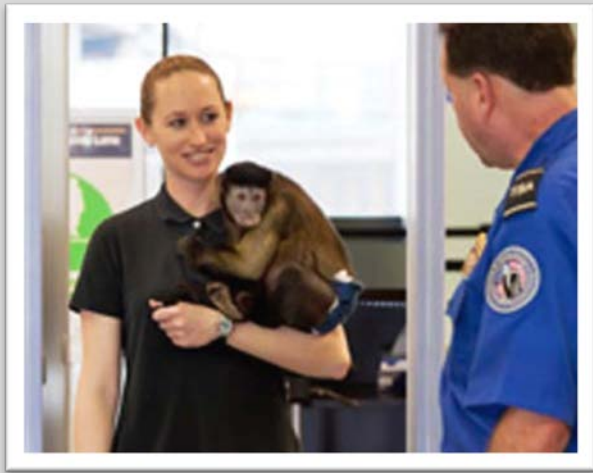
■ Spinal Cord Injury

■ Multiple Sclerosis

■ Muscular Dystrophy

■ Other





TSA Security

- This is the only time when the service monkey is removed from the carrier by a Helping Hands staff Trainer during airline travel.
- Helping Hands has participated in TSA Training Films and assisted in creating service monkey security screening protocols.
- Helping Hands received a TSA Disability Coalition Friendship Award in 2004.



Travel Stats

- On average 20-30 domestic flights per year. Transferring monkeys to and from The Monkey College for new placements, as needed care during placements.
- Nearly all service monkey travel is done with a Helping Hands staff Trainer. Monkeys rarely, if ever, travel with their recipients with disabilities.
- Helping Hands service monkeys remain in a soft-sided carrier that fits under the seat and are never removed from the carrier during flights for any reason.
- Helping Hands staff travel with a letter from the President of the organization and health certificates that can be shown if requested by airline personnel.

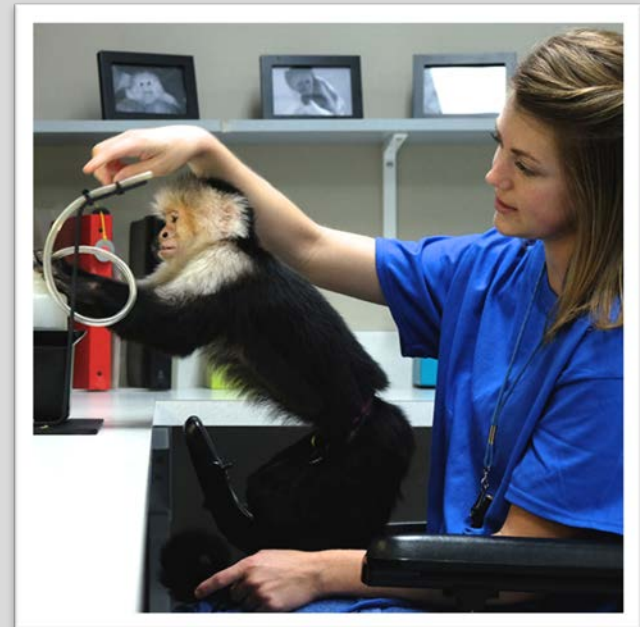
Challenges of Differing Airline Policies

- Domestic airlines often have different policies regarding trained service animals on flights who are traveling with training staff versus the individual they are trained to assist—and notification requirements for airlines differ.
- Because Helping Hands service monkeys are not routinely seen by airline staff, sometimes the lack of a policy, or lack of recognition among the airlines can be a challenge.
- Helping Hands is not adverse to paying an animal in-cabin fee, but we would benefit from more clarity or support from individual domestic carriers for our service monkeys to travel with professional training staff to and from recipient homes across the country.



ACCESS Committee Proposal

- We understand, for this purpose, trained service monkeys flying with Helping Hands training staff are not considered service monkeys in-flight as our trainers do not live with disabilities and the animals are not assisting their handlers during flights.
- Would the committee consider adding “service monkey owned by a 501(c)3 charity” or “service monkey traveling with a trainer” in the decision tree options?
- This would allow Helping Hands to have a more formal and unified system to notify individual airlines when our staff is traveling with a service monkey. (Even if a cabin fee will apply with certain airlines.)
- Helping Hands could assist in developing appropriate decision tree language.



Placement Week

- Typically 5-7 days in recipient's home
- Education of recipient and his/her support system
- Building adaptive equipment
- Monkey proofing



Placement Week

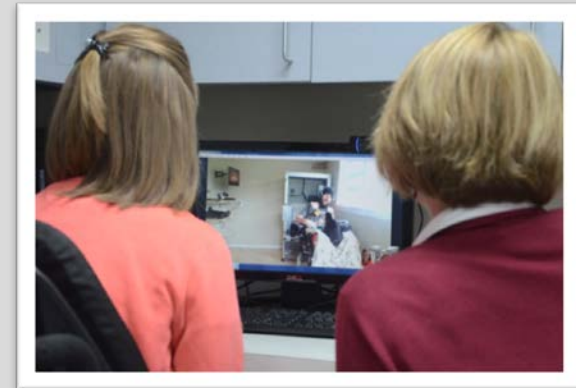
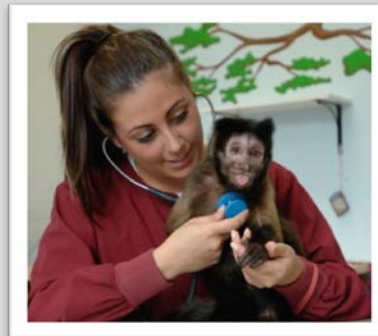
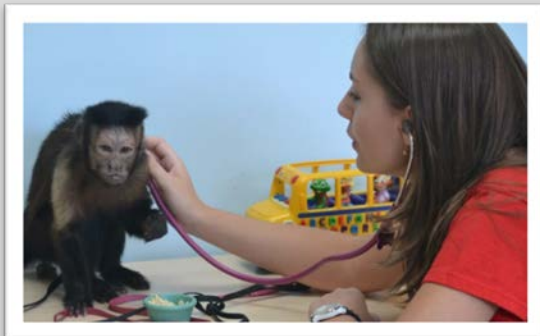
HELPING  HANDS
**MONKEYS
IN A
MINUTE**

Placement Week



Post Placement Support

- Very intense the first year of placement
- *Skype*
- 24/7 emergency lifetime support of all placements
- Veterinary, equipment, behavioral



Psychological Benefits of the Human-Animal Bond

- “My monkey needs me as much as I need him.”
- “Gives me a reason to wake up every morning.”
- “Something to focus on other than my loss/injury/illness.”
- “My monkey doesn’t look at me like I’m different or broken.”



Beyond the Tasks



Q+A and For More Info...

- monkeyhelpers.org
- Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Youtube
- Sign up for our eNewsletter
- Spread the word!

