

About Helping Hands

Established in 1979, Helping Hands: Monkey Helpers for the Disabled Inc. is a national non-profit 501(c) 3 organization that breeds, raises and trains

capuchin monkeys to provide daily assistance to people living with spinal cord injury or other mobility impairments.

Helping Hands supports each service monkey and his or her human partner during their many years together 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 is certified as one of America's Best Charities by Independent Charities of America.

You Can Make a Difference

For 30 years our donors' generosity has made it possible for monkey helpers to change the lives of their human partners. Here are some ways your gift helps with the expenses associated with training, placing

and supporting our service animals:

- \$25** can provide fruit, vegetables and training treats for our monkeys
- \$50** can provide toys, blankets, stuffed animals for one monkey in training
- \$250** can provide monkey chow for one monkey for one year
- \$500** can provide an equipment upgrade for a long-term monkey helper placement
- \$1,000** can provide active placement support for one monkey helper recipient a year
- \$3,000** can provide monkey housing and environmental adaptation technology for a new or active placement
- \$9,000** can underwrite the basic training for one monkey
- \$15,000** can underwrite the placement week travel and equipment as well as the first year active support of a new monkey helper placement
- \$38,000** can support a monkey from foster care through training and up to the placement week with a new recipient

For information on stock donations or including Helping Hands in your estate planning contact
Andrea Rothfelder
at andrear@monkeyhelpers.org
or 617-787-4419 ext.114

HELPING  HANDSSM

monkey helpers for the disabled



***Bringing together
partners
for life***

**541 Cambridge Street
Boston, MA 02134**

617.787.4419

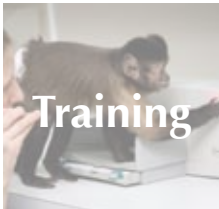
www.monkeyhelpers.org



Helping Hands service animals are capuchin monkeys. Capuchins (*cebus apella*) are New World monkeys, native to Central and South America; however all our monkeys were born

and raised in the United States. Capuchins are small, typically 6-9 pounds as adults and about fifteen inches tall. They can live 30-35 years, allowing them to have long careers as assistance animals. Because capuchin monkeys are highly intelligent, adaptable, and sociable, they can make perfect partners to humans, adding an extra set of hands and a great deal of help and companionship.

The key to Helping Hands monkey helper relationships is symbiosis: the natural pairing of dissimilar but mutually beneficial partners. As seeing-eye dogs provide eyes to the blind, so too, do Helping Hands monkeys provide hands to individuals with physical disabilities.



During the training process at our Boston facility (also known as The Monkey College) each monkey learns how to help people with simple everyday activities such as opening

and setting up a drink of water, scratching an itch, and picking up a dropped or out-of-reach object. Laser pointers and simple words are the primary means of guiding monkeys in their task behaviors, and all training is accomplished through positive reinforcement of praise, affection, and small food rewards.

As the monkeys progress through four distinct levels of schooling, the training rooms gradually begin to resemble a home environment. Distractions, equipment, and everyday objects are slowly introduced to the monkeys in a positive, comfortable, and playful manner. Prior to graduation, monkeys become adept at using objects such as refrigerators, televisions, and DVD players.



The Helping Hands placement program is divided into two distinct categories: **New Placement** and **Active Placement**. All placements are free for our recipients.

The New Placement Program begins with a written application, references and screening processes that include telephone interview, home visit and placement readiness assessments. Once the candidate, his/her home environment and support systems are approved, staff members identify the "right" monkey for that particular home. Once the final match is identified the Placement Team makes arrangements to conduct on-site training in the new recipient's home environment which can last anywhere from six to eight days.

The first twelve months of a new placement are the most formative as the monkey and human partner learn each other's capabilities and build a bond of trust and understanding. During the first year of a new placement, recipients are in touch daily, and then weekly, with Helping Hands advisors as our team watches over each placement carefully to ensure long-term success.

The Active Placement Program is the cornerstone of our mission. In order for us to ensure that a recipient is receiving the independence we desire from a monkey helper it is essential that our team remains engaged and involved with the partnership. The Active Placement Program begins after the first year of a new placement is completed and a recipient's support needs change. The staff continues to routinely monitor the monkey's diet and health status, and answer questions about behavioral and nutritional needs. **Helping Hands maintains ownership of all of our animals and provides free 24/7 emergency phone support to all of our clients for the lifetime of each placement.**



In 1998, Helping Hands launched SCIPP, the Spinal Cord Injury Prevention Program, as part of our community service and educational initiatives. The program, which is presented at schools, camps, and

youth groups, is designed to make students more aware of ways to prevent spinal cord injuries as well as the daily challenges that people with severe disabilities face. The program also aims to educate young people about the human-animal bond and the benefits of community service. **To find out how your school or youth group can bring SCIPP to children age 8-18, please contact Helping Hands.**

