



### Celebrating Independence This July!

"Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness," as written in the Declaration of Independence, are three basic principles that resonate beyond a single national holiday.

Because of you, Helping Hands: Monkey Helpers emphasizes these fundamental values every day. Without you, we can't train service monkeys for [a number of essential tasks](#): to reposition limbs, insert drinking straws into bottles, flip open pages in a book, scratch itches, turn light switches off and on, and retrieve dropped objects. Thanks to you, recipients can once again feel empowered and independent with a helper monkey by their side. Lives are a bit brighter. These success stories happen every day here at Monkey College. And for that, we thank you.

In this edition of Monkey Business, we are excited to share some internal changes with you. These changes include an update on our annual fundraiser as well as the introduction of a new staff member. We also invite you to read the informative section on Summer Outdoor Safety tips—all essential to keep in mind during your outside activities.

From all of us at Helping Hands: Monkey Helpers, we wish you a wonderful July!

**Do you know someone who might benefit from having a service monkey? [Connect us!](#)**



### Welcome Elise!

This June, we welcomed Elise Burgess in as our Communications Assistant. She has been involved with Helping Hands in a volunteer capacity over the past five years. She brings with her a background in nonprofit management as well as veterinary technology. She is thrilled to be part of the Helping Hands family where she can tell our story to a ever-expanding audience.



### Ch-Ch-Ch-Changes...

Are you wondering why you haven't heard about the Monkey Helpers' Annual Festival yet this year? That's because we are changing the date of the event!

Next year, Helping Hands will be celebrating 40 years of increased independence, and to celebrate the Monkey Helpers' Annual Festival will take place in the Spring of 2019! We need extra time to plan for such a special event. More announcements coming soon on our website, in upcoming editions of Monkey Business, and on social media.

**If you want to be involved and help us celebrate our 40th Anniversary Year—[Contact us!](#)**

*"I started volunteering for Helping Hands because I was facinated by the idea of such a unique service organization. Like you, I quickly became aware of the commitment, patience, and heartfelt compassion of both trainers and staff—everyone goes to such great lengths with the service monkeys and recipients. I'm so proud to be part of such an amazing organization. I look forward to meeting you and hearing why our mission resonates with you!"*

[Read more about Elise here.](#)



### Summer Safety!

There's nothing like summer activities to bring the family together and put a smile on everyone's face. Keep the good times going, but don't forget to play it safe (No matter what your age!)

According to the [Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation](#), more than 1.2 million Americans are currently living with spinal cord injuries, and many of these injuries were caused from sporting, recreational, and motor vehicle accidents. That's why it is especially important to remind people about outdoor safety during this time of year.

**[Here are some easy ways to stay safe this summer.](#)**

### Blooper of the Month

Helping Hands monkeys are great at learning and performing tasks, but not always great at posing for pictures!

Be sure to follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) to be a part of the fun and make your voice heard: vote for the image that will be featured in next month's blooper section!

Thanks for voting!

### Grant Spotlight

Helping Hands: Monkey Helpers is grateful for the continuing support of [The John A. Scileppi Foundation](#) with their recent grant of \$3,000. Their gift will help us support recipients across the country who rely on a service monkey for increased independence, hope, and joy.



CFC #11196

