

HELPING HANDS

MONKEY HELPERS



"I can't thank you enough for the gift you gave my sister in JLee, and at no cost to our family!" - Aunda, TN

Dear Friend,

If you are like me, you often wonder if your charitable contributions really make a difference. There are many requests from worthwhile organizations, all serving a great need. Today, you are receiving this letter because you support Helping Hands: Monkey Helpers and I want to tell you that **you made a difference in my sister's life** and that of our entire family. **You** helped to create Angie's story.



A new beginning, a better way to live with her new limitations - that is what Angie was looking for when she applied for a monkey helper in 2005. Paralyzed by spinal tumors, Angie, a veteran, was looking for ways to become more independent when she discovered Helping Hands. She was matched with her monkey helper, JLee, in 2006 and the pair quickly became constant companions. Her service monkey was there to help with the small, day-to-day challenges, and to be a loving friend during times of greater challenge, especially when Angie lost both her legs due to medical complications.

"I no longer have much of a lap for her, but she always finds a way to cuddle up on me anyway," Angie said in an interview with Helping Hands in 2011. "Her love, sweetness, caresses, and tenderness are so precious. ***There is no way to describe how her little brown eyes looking up at me touch my heart. She is the best thing that ever happened to me. She gives me strength.***"

Over the past nine years, you may have read several stories about this memorable team. If you read the March eNewsletter you already know the powerful impact JLee had on Angie's life right until the end:

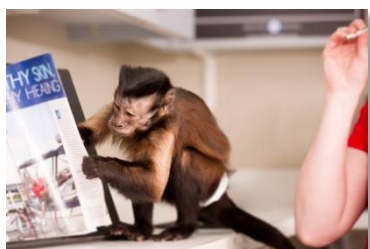
"My sister was not doing well. She was battling an infection and losing, the hospital told us she probably had only four days to live. Angie asked to go home to be with JLee and our family, so we took her home. She then surprised everyone and spent thirty-one days with us! Believe me when I say those were the sweetest days we had. She was like her old self – we played and laughed just like old times. But most of all, Angie wanted to be with JLee. She loved that monkey so much – JLee gave her purpose and a reason to wake up in the morning. And that little monkey loved her right back – always grooming her and cuddling with her. Even when Angie slipped into a coma, JLee stayed with her, curling up on her chest and sharing her love. Right up until the end of Angie's life, JLee was there, doing her best to comfort and care for her."



I am sure that this is not the story you might have been expecting to read, but it was important for me to share so you know how much having JLee meant to Angie, to all of us really. I truly believe that Angie stayed on this Earth for so long because of that little monkey. I can't thank you enough for the gift you gave my sister in JLee, and at no cost to our family! **Knowing that we are sending JLee back to The Monkey College, that she can eventually be placed in a new home again and give that love and care to someone else somehow keeps my sister's memory closer.**

New Beginnings.

That is what you, as part of the Helping Hands family, help recipients and their families to create each time a new match is made. With each placement comes many stories of love, laughter, and fun that the wonderful monkey helpers bring into a home. Angie and JLee's story reminds us all that the human-animal bond can leave a long lasting and healing impact.



And while monkey helpers can be life changing for those living with mobility impairments, training them is a big commitment to the organization. It costs an average \$40,000. Each helper trains for three to five years at The Monkey College prior to placement. Then the Helping Hands team spends five to eight days at recipient's home during each new placement, overseeing the transition, troubleshooting challenges, and ensuring the recipient and monkey are bonding—vital steps for a successful monkey helper relationship.

I am asking you to **make a donation** today to help prepare service monkeys like JLee for new recipients as they join to form the **"2014 Class"** of Helping Hands graduates. Consider joining the **Monthly Sustaining Donors** Program, allowing you to spread your generosity over monthly gifts. As a Monthly **Sustaining Donor**, your support provides steady funding for the Monkey College year-round, ensuring that funding is always available to make the next match. As you know, Helping Hands puts your donation right to work efficiently, too: 93 cents of every dollar supports their program services.

Thank you for taking the time to read my sister's story and for considering a donation, in any amount, so that another family will have the chance to experience the gifts of a monkey helper.

Sincerely,

Aunda Anderson
A Grateful Sister

P.S. We invite you to read and watch more inspiring stories from our recipients by visiting our website: **monkeyhelpers.org**. Thank you in advance for your generosity. **Together we can continue to create more priceless partnerships.** – Megan Talbert, Executive Director



Established in 1979, Helping Hands, a not-for-profit corporation, breeds, raises, and trains capuchin monkeys to provide daily assistance to people living with spinal cord injury or other mobility impairments. Relying on private contributions, Helping Hands provides these specifically trained service animals and their lifetime support free of charge.

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