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# Wags & Wheels

Annual Report

2009 Spring Newsletter



ADAI is a voting and accredited member of Assistance Dogs International.



ADAI is a member of Community Shares.



*Assistance Dogs of America, Inc. helps children and adults with disabilities achieve greater independence by training and placing service and therapy dogs to assist with the individual's daily needs.*

## Thank You!

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15)

Ohio Wags  
Sam's Club  
The 577 Foundation  
Therma Tru  
TKBW Private Foundation  
Toledo Correctional Institute  
Wally & Sally Krueger Family Foundation  
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**Sponsors \$5,000 & Up**

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McIntosh Family  
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The Greater Cincinnati Foundation  
Toledo Classic, Inc.  
Rita Gertrude Hintz-Shela  
Georgia Welles  
Tim and Jenni Yoder

**For anyone we missed, we appreciate all your donations.**

### Assistance Dogs of America, Inc. Board Members and Staff

President	Jenni Yoder
Vice President	Kim Hanson
Secretary	Kimberlie England
Treasurer	Julie Johns

#### Board Members

Dr. Nasreen Bhumbra  
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Prison Puppy Coordinator	Rhonda DeKoninck
Staff Trainer/ Cleveland Prison	Cathy Christopher
Staff Trainer/ Cleveland Prison	Dr. Alice Schottenstein
Dog Intake Coordinator/ Trainer	Leslie Osterhout
Kennel Manager	Tim Conrad
PT Kennel Assistant	Jannette Osterhout

Magic's impact on the students and staff at Tiffin city schools is as obvious as the smiles on everyone's faces when they greet the cuddly golden retriever. In addition to the smiles, Magic has taught many lessons, including confidence, responsibility, reading and writing.

Assistance Dogs of America, Inc. placed the school therapy dog with Noble and Washington elementary schools in March of 2006. His handler at school and home is School Counselor Suzanne Reinhart.

"I never could have dreamed what an impact Magic would have on our students, staff and community," said Mrs. Reinhart.

On Magic's first day, he brought comfort to Andrew, a kindergarten student with autism. Magic and Mrs. Reinhart were asked to visit Andrew, who had become

frantic by the loud sounds and change in routine caused by a fire drill. Andrew immediately connected with Magic and became calm. A few minutes later, they were walking hand-in-leash through the hall to return to class. Magic has made many other friends who come to him for a listening ear, tail wags and wet licks. Mrs. Reinhart said, "The students know they can count on Magic to be the best doggone friend in the world!"

Magic also encourages improvements in behavior and self-esteem. They learned about self control when Mrs. Reinhart placed a handful of treats on the floor and asked Magic to "stay." She walked around the classroom and even stepped outside as Magic patiently waited for her to say, "Free," which is the command that allows him to collect the treats. The students watch out for Magic's safety as they feel ownership and responsibility for him. Pride and confidence is gained when they groom, walk and practice commands with him. Mrs. Reinhart said, "Students who face challenges in making friends become the center of attention when they are holding onto Magic's leash."

Magic helps the teachers by acting as an incentive and inspiring lessons. As the "Homework Hound," he rewards students by spending extra time with those who complete their homework and reach their goals. Recently, all 25 classes were asked to write a book about Magic. Copies of the books were donated to Mercy Hospital of Tiffin to connect the therapy dog to the city's community. The book project employed Magic as

the student's inspiration and taught them about generosity. The hospital's patients enjoyed the books and look forward to meeting Magic during his weekly visit.

Assistance Dogs also placed therapy dogs in schools in the Northwest Ohio communities of Bryan, Findlay, Waterville and Wauseon. Allie, Dixie, Hayden, Jewels, Kramer and Sarah have made similar impressions on their school's communities. Currently, there are ten more schools in Canal Winchester, Fayette, Findlay, Fostoria, Frankfort, North Ridgeville, South Vienna, Stryker and Wauseon waiting for their canine companion. Your generosity will help give more schools and their communities the smiles inspired by a school therapy dog.



# Congratulations to Our Newest Graduates!



## Glenwood Middle School and Hayden

Glenwood Middle School in Findlay, Ohio received school therapy dog, Hayden. Glenwood has 370 students in grades sixth through eighth. Julie Lauck, school counselor; Heather Burkin, eighth grade teacher; Dawn Rose, librarian; and Principal David Alvarado attended team training. Hayden is a black Labrador retriever, who was donated by Pamela Smith and fostered by Mary Ann Grutza. The staff at Glenwood believes Hayden has made a huge impact on the emotional well-being of their staff and students.



## Denise Freeman and Diego

Denise Freeman received service dog, Diego. Denise lives in Toledo, Ohio with her cat Nikkie and enjoys playing games and watching movies. Diego is a Labrador retriever mix from the Defiance County Humane Society. He was fostered by Stephanie Anderson. Diego helps Denise deal with the challenges of Multiple Sclerosis by retrieving items, tugging clothing, lifting her legs and helping her to sit up when she falls forward. He makes her feel needed and keeps her from getting worn out easily. Denise wants to thank ADAI for providing her with her next great love, a black dog named Diego.

Assistance Dogs of America, Inc. hosted its fall 2008 graduation on Thursday, November 20 at Parkway Place in Maumee, Ohio. Three therapy dogs and four service dogs were placed with schools and individuals with disabilities.



## Maria O'Donnell and Sage

Sage was placed as a therapy dog with Maria O'Donnell, from North Royalton, Ohio. She is married to Tom and has five children, Tom, Tara, Katie, Lauren and Ryan. She enjoys shopping, music and singing in the choir. Maria had a stroke, which resulted in aphasia, weakness to her right leg and arm and vision loss. Sage is a Labrador retriever, who was fostered by Cindy Preston, Dawn Tyndall-Sheater and Toledo Correctional Institute (TOCI) inmate, Lee. Maria said Sage provides her companionship and help around the house.

Hilary Gwilt and Connor Connor was placed with Hilary Gwilt, who lives in Conneaut, Ohio with her parents; Heather and Tom and her dog and cat. She attends Kent State University in Ashtabula. Hilary enjoys singing, surfing



the internet, vacationing, shopping, going to the movies and spending time with family and friends. She has cerebral palsy and vision impairment. Connor is a yellow Labrador Retriever. TOCI inmates, Tim and Eric trained Connor, along with volunteer fosters, Rick and Karen Gallaway. Hilary said that Conner improved her walking and assists with laundry, climbing stairs and becoming more social with people.

Kate Hillard and Sullivan Kate Hillard received successor dog, Sullivan. Kate is from Toledo, Ohio and has neurocardiogenic syncope. She has a small photography business called Thru My Eyes Photography and attends



the University of Toledo's senior 60 plus programs. She shares her home with cats, Zoe, Bailey and Beethoven. In addition to photography, Kate enjoys quilt making, taking long walks, working with children in a Mennonite tutoring program and cooking. Kate had previous experience with how rewarding and helpful an assistance dog can be through her first dog, Kirby, who developed epilepsy over a year ago. Sullivan is a brindle Labradoodle who was donated by Westwood Labradoodles. He was fostered by Sue Kroyer. Kate gained confidence and security with Sullivan, knowing that he will help her if she faints or falls. However, the best perk for Kate is knowing Sullivan will be her new "best friend."

Waterville Primary School and Sarah School therapy dog, Sarah was placed with Waterville Primary School in Waterville, Ohio. Waterville Primary has 450 students in kindergarten through



fourth grade. Jamie Gutierrez, school counselor; Paul Meyer, special education teacher, and Becky Johnson, first grade teacher, attended team training. The golden retriever was trained by TOCI inmates, Julius and Desmon, and volunteer fosters, Rebecca Shultz and Diane Pickering. The staff believes Sarah is a reading buddy and listening ear for students dealing with a variety of difficulties. A third grade student said, "It's like we just won a million dollars!"



## Bob Schwartz and Jay

Bob Schwartz lives in Vermillion, Ohio and Kelley's Island and received service dog, Jay. Bob has three daughters and two grandsons. Bob is retired from the United States Air Force and from Lima Broadcasting Co. He is involved in the Paralyzed Veterans of America, the VFW, and is the Chairman of the Vermillion Civil Service Commission. Some of Bob's favorite things to do are boating, fishing, swimming and recumbent cycling. He suffered a spinal cord injury while he was in the service. Jay is a yellow Labrador Retriever, who was donated by Laura

McNeilan. He was fostered by TOCI inmate, Tim and fosters, Ann Studer and Karen Edwards. Because of Jay, Bob is able to expand his scope of activities, accept new challenges and live a normal and independent existence. He said, "ADAI has given me the most positive life altering gift possible!"

## Crate Drive

Assistance Dogs of America, Inc. is striving to achieve our goal of placing more dogs per year with persons with disabilities. Due to the increasing number of assistance dogs in training we are in need of more crates. We will accept any size of dog crate. Please call (419) 825-3622 ext. 221 for more information. We appreciate your donation. The following places are

drop-off locations between March 9 and May 9:

**Assistance Dogs of America, Inc.**  
8806 State Route 64, Swanton

**Four Paws Two Feet**  
10010 Ramm Rd, Monclova

**Ability Center of Greater Toledo**  
5605 Monroe St, Sylvania

**Perrysburg Animal Care**  
29098 Hufford Rd, Perrysburg

**McElhenny Locksmiths, Inc.**  
1214 Jefferson Ave, Toledo

**Hanson, Inc.**  
1625 Indian Wood Circle, Maumee

**Therapy Works**  
3030 Navarre Ave, Oregon  
7117 Orchard Centre Drive, Holland

# Message from The Board of Directors of Assistance Dogs of America, Inc.

## Opportunities Arise Amid the Changes Facing Assistance Dogs

2008 was a year of change for Assistance Dog of America and the outlook for 2009 promises more of the same. If there is one thing we can all be sure of, it is that things will never remain constant. As an organization, we see that reality as an opportunity.

In June of 2008, the organization welcomed Dr. Bill Wolfe as our new executive director. Bill's experience brought many opportunities to the organization and created excitement around our plans for growth. Unfortunately, Dr. Wolfe resigned from the organization this February due to medical reasons. A search for a new leader is currently underway and we hope to have a new executive director in place in May.

Amid the significant change, current programming activities are running effectively. In 2009 we anticipate placing 20 assistance dogs, which is our capacity due to space limitations. Our staff is strong and continues to be very committed to our efforts. Our next graduation will be April 30, 2009 at Parkway Place where one of our largest classes ever, consisting of eight dog and client teams, will graduate.

In 2008 we were fortunate to be the recipient charity of Chicks for Charity. Over

500 dedicated women joined in support of Assistance Dogs' cause and held the annual fundraising event in July at the Toledo Zoo. The Chicks events not only brought the organization much appreciated funds, but the awareness it created for Assistance Dogs was invaluable. Martha Vetter of Roman Peshoff and her team know how to make (lovely) noise in the community and we are indebted to all of the Chicks for Charity.

Our next graduation will be April 30, 2009 at Parkway Place where one of our largest classes ever, consisting of eight dog and client teams, will graduate.

ADAI was also one of the 15 designated charities for the Jamie Farr Owens Corning Classic. Ten volunteers represented Assistance Dogs terrifically while they helped prepare for the golf tournament and clean up the course afterward. In December, Assistance Dogs was given almost \$12,000 as a result of the tournament. We are very fortunate to have the support of such a wonderful organization.

The second half of the year resulted in financial challenges around the world and those effects were felt by Assistance Dogs. It was not a banner year in terms of donations and grants, but under the careful guidance of our board finance committee, we made the decision to access cash reserves in lieu of limiting operations. Your board of directors is committed to the growth and continued success of Assistance Dogs.

In these times, however, your support of Assistance Dogs is more important than ever. Please consider making a contribution today. Your donation will be used to help fulfill our mission of giving independence and companionship to people with disabilities. Our client waiting list is at an all time high of over 60 persons, making the wait for a service or therapy dog over two years. Help us change the lives of someone like Andrew, who befriended Magic, a school therapy dog in Tiffin, as told in *The Magic of the Leash*.

## In-Kind Donations

Assistance Dogs is very fortunate to receive in-kind donations to help compensate for the costs of care for the assistance dogs in training. Iams donated all of the dog food for our trainees, which in 2008 totaled almost \$12,000. All of the necessary heartworm medication was donated by Sentinel. Plus, Frontline donated a significant portion of their flea and tick protection, valued at almost

\$20,000. To keep our dogs in the best health we turn to Wayne North, D.V.M. and his staff at Perrysburg Animal Care. They graciously donate half of the veterinary costs for all of the dogs in training. The trainees visit Dr. North for spaying or neutering, preventative shots and examinations and all other medical treatments. During each team training class, the clients visit Perrysburg Animal Care to meet Dr. North and experience a brief exam. He discusses each dog's

medical history and answers any questions the new assistance dog owner may have. Dr. North and his wonderful staff have continued to be kind friends to Assistance Dogs for over 16 years. These generous companies enable Assistance Dogs of America, Inc. to provide canine companions to individuals with disabilities for just a small application and equipment fee.

## 2008 Year in Review

2008 was a great year of change and growth at Assistance Dogs of America, Inc. and several positions were added to the organization. Leslie Osterhout joined ADAI and is responsible for dog intake, dog adoptions and training dogs in final training. Janette Osterhout joined ADAI as a part-time kennel assistant. Dawn Hammer returned from Kansas City and is now the part-time Client Services Coordinator and Marilyn Lazarus returned to ADAI as a part-time trainer. In addition to new staff, ADAI was fortunate to have two Bowling Green State University students intern in the Client Services Department.

The PUPPS (Prisoners Uniting Puppies and People in Service) program continued to thrive since its inception in 2006. There were six dogs at the Toledo Correctional Institute (TOCI) in January of 2008 and that number increased to twelve by December. At the Northeast Pre-Release Center (NEPRC) in Cleveland the number of dogs increased from six to eight throughout the year. The goal for ADAI is to have fifteen dogs at TOCI and twelve dogs at NEPRC by the end of 2009. Our success rate of these

puppies graduating as assistance dogs is seventy percent, making this program a valuable part of our success.

ADAI conducted its first School Therapy Dog Workshop for schools with therapy dogs from ADAI and for those schools on the active waiting list. Teachers and administrators were able to gain useful information and earn continuing education credits during the one-day workshop. The workshop was very successful and all the participants were excited to learn how other schools are utilizing therapy dogs, receive curriculum and fundraising ideas and listen to great success stories.

Other accomplishments this year include:

- 16 new assistance dog placements:
  - 11 service dogs with 2 being successor dogs
  - 5 therapy dogs, including 1 child, 1 adult, 2 schools and 1 retirement community
- 83 dog/puppy evaluations from shelters, breeders and pet homes:
  - 31 shelter evaluations with 5 accepted into our training program
  - 42 breeder evaluations with 28 accepted into our training program
  - 10 pet home evaluations with 0 accepted into our training program

- Monthly dogs in training inventory averages 50-55 dogs
- 39 new volunteers joined our organization in 2008, including 14 fosters, 16 new furloughs, 1 puppy sitter and 8 general volunteers.
- Over 120 active volunteers were involved with training, facility maintenance, fundraising events and clerical help.
- Volunteers gave 10,235 hours of their own time to Assistance Dogs in 2008.
- Staff and Speakers Bureau members attended 11 community events and conducted 49 presentations.
- Client Services conducted 43 new client interviews, including 18 for service dogs and 25 for therapy dogs.
- Our waiting list grew to 59 clients with an 18 to 24 month waiting period.
- Client Services performed 37 graduate certifications/re-certifications.
- Client Services conducted 58 graduate and waiting list client follow-up visits.
- We placed 24 pet home adoption placements of our "fabulous flunkies."

## FanClubCard.com

Do you want to save money at local businesses and support Assistance Dogs?

Assistance Dogs is participating in a new fundraising program with FanClubCard.com. Our organization will raise money by selling memberships to FanClubCard.com and keeping a portion of the proceeds. Card holding members will receive great deals at many popular local businesses, such as Toledo Mud Hens, Valvoline, Outback Steakhouse, Barry Bagels and Bumble. A complete list of establishments and the existing discounts are available at FanClubCard.com.

Assistance Dogs endorses this program and we are excited to extend this offer to our valuable supporters. We invite you

to purchase a membership and help sell cards to friends and family members. The cost is only \$37 for a one year membership. Also, if you renew your membership next year, then Assistance Dogs will again receive a portion of the membership fee. By purchasing a membership, you can save hundreds of dollars over the year and help the local economy, while supporting your favorite non-profit organization, Assistance Dogs of America, Inc.

We need your help in meeting our goal of selling 2000 FanClubCard.com memberships! To enroll now, please

make your check payable to FanClub Productions LLC and mail it with your completed registration form to FanClub Productions LLC, 8527 Central Ave., Sylvania, Ohio 43560. You may also sign up for a membership at FanClubCard.com. Be sure to fill in our registration code - 1100 - so Assistance Dogs receives a portion of the proceeds. Please tell your friends and family about this great opportunity to save money and support Assistance Dogs! If you have any questions, please contact Kate McComb at (419) 825-3622 ext. 228.



# Events Corner

Assistance Dogs is preparing for a fantastic year of events! We have new festivities this year that we hope will raise awareness and much needed funds to fulfill our mission. All proceeds from these events are used to train and place assistance dogs with individuals with disabilities. For tickets or more information, please call Kate McComb, Marketing and Special Events Coordinator at (419) 825-3622 ext. 228 or email kmccomb@adai.org.

## 10th Anniversary of Assistance Dogs Golf Classic

On Monday, May 18, 2009 Assistance Dogs will host our Golf Classic at Stone Ridge Golf Club in Bowling Green, Ohio. Following the golf tournament is a special celebration of the tenth anniversary of this fundraising event, including a dinner, raffle and program honoring our future assistance dogs. Please consider becoming a sponsor of this fundraising event or bringing a team for a round of golf. We hope to see you on the green!



## Dealin' for Dogs 2009

Add the fourth annual Dealin' for Dogs to your calendar on Saturday, August 22, 2009! Bet your hand in a game of poker while supporting Assistance Dogs in the parking lot of Hanson, Inc. at Arrowhead Park in Maumee, Ohio. This outdoor night of fun includes casino games by Impact Fun, food from City Q Barbeque, music by Jeff Stewart, a live and silent auction, raffle prizes and much more! Sponsorship opportunities are available. Join us and see why our guests rave about all the fun things to do at Dealin' for Dogs!

## Spring 2009 Graduation

You're invited to celebrate the graduations of our spring 2009 class at Parkway Place, located at 2592 Parkway Plaza, Maumee, Ohio, on Thursday, April 30, 2009. Dinner begins at 6 p.m. and costs \$15 per person. You may choose to attend the program only, which begins at 7 p.m. Graduation is a celebration of the time and effort given by the staff, volunteers and graduates to fulfill the mission of Assistance Dogs.

# Wish List

Assistance Dogs of America, Inc. graciously accepts in-kind donations. Please review this list to see if there is anything you may be able to donate. Feel free to contact us with any questions. You will receive a receipt with the value of the donation. You may drop off the donation at our facility or call (419) 825-3622 ext. 221 to arrange for a pick up.

## Our Dogs Wish For:

Cheerios  
Crates – any size  
Dog beds  
Dog brushes – soft bristle, gentle slicker and shedding blade  
Dog toothpaste  
Halti – size 2 and 3  
Kongs – medium and large  
Nail files – large  
Nylabones – any size  
Oatmeal shampoo and conditioner  
Puppy and dog toys (all types)  
Rope toys or tug toys  
Scissor type dog nail clippers – large  
Six foot royal blue nylon and leather leashes  
Two quart stainless steel dog bowls

## Wish List For Facility:

Window air conditioners  
Air fresheners  
Cotton balls  
Dish soap  
Kleenex  
Laundry detergent (no bleach)  
Light bulbs  
Mop  
Paper bowls, cups and plates  
Paper towels  
Toilet bowl brushes  
Toilet paper  
Trash bags

# Thank You, Thank You, Thank You! 2008 Donors

## Gifts In Honor and In Memory

### BASIL

Dr. Kriston Sherman

### BOGART

Dr. Kriston Sherman

### CHLOE

Dr. Kriston Sherman

### CLEO

Dr. Kriston Sherman

### CO-WORKERS

Diane M. Billmaier

### DAPHNE

Robert and Sandra Young

### DAWN

Dr. Kriston Sherman

### DUKE AND MAX

Terry and Erika Yoder

### FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Robert and Diane Doyle

### FRANKIE

Gail and Joseph Rinderknecht

### HARVEY

Simone Bailey

### HERSCHEL

Dr. Kriston Sherman

### JACK PFEIFER AND NOLA VANYO

Janet Gollehon

### JEAN'S 60TH BIRTHDAY

Hans and Martha Vetter

### JETT

Charles and Marianne Hoppel

### LIBBY

Laetitia Thayer

### LUCY

Nancy Struble

### LYDIA

Peggy Amey

### MADDY

Robin and Jennifer Buckingham

### MAQUI

Dr. Kriston Sherman

### MARILYN LAZARUS

Anonymous

### MARSHMELLOW

Dr. Kriston Sherman

### MATHASER

Phil and Marianne Burton

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Toledo Community Foundation, Inc.

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### MISTY

Timber's Edge Ladies Club

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### MATHASER

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### SHADOW

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### SLATE

Dr. Kriston Sherman

### THOMAS MEEKS AND BLACKIE

Doris Meek

### TOBY

Edward and Karen Fitzgerald

### TREY

Dr. Kriston Sherman

### TUCKER

Tim and Jenni Yoder

### WINCHESTER

Florence Hollenbaugh

### ED AND FRAN BERGER, BOB JUMP AND FAMILY, EMILY BERGER, BRETT NEFF AND FAMILY, ERIC BERGER AND FAMILY AND GORDON AND CINDY FEASEL

Ruth Dotterer

### NOLA VANYO AND JACK PFEIFER

Janet Gollehon

### BETH ANN ANDREWS

Timothy Andrews

James and Virginia Barton

Larry Becker

Mary Jo Birk

James Buckley

Michael and Michelle Cacchio

John and Judith Connelly

Sharon and Brian Conrad

Helen Coyle

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Swanton Parents Club  
Opal and Sidney Taylor  
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### TIM AND JENNI YODER'S ANNIVERSARY

Charles and Janis Witte

### ALLIE AT BRYAN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Bryan Middle School  
Stephen and Barbara Mabus  
Roger and Shelley Wanner  
Timothy and Pamela Smith

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### KAY ELROD

Richard and Shelley Walinski

# Facebook

Assistance Dogs has joined Facebook! Facebook is a free social networking Web site that helps people connect and share with those in their life. As a member of Facebook, people can add friends, send messages, update their personal profiles, upload photos and videos, write a "Note" or blog and learn more about other people.

Assistance Dogs is using Facebook to link our community, including volunteers, graduates and general supporters. We want to make the built-in network of Assistance Dogs more



easily accessible. For example, new fosters may be interested in hearing about "veteran" fosters' experiences. Facebook members can easily find other fosters to share helpful tips, schedule group outings and get to know fellow volunteers.

To connect to our community through Facebook, visit [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and

sign up by creating a profile. Once you are a member, search for "Assistance Dogs of America, Inc." and request to join our group or become a fan of our page. Group members and fans will receive event invitations and news updates. They can also post pictures, videos and comments. If you have questions, then please visit the help section by clicking on "Help" in the bottom right hand corner.

**LEE AND PAT GARMAN**

Greg and Linda Wilker

**SHELLEY GERMANN**

Elizabeth Baldwin

Judy Germann

**J. THOMAS GOLLEHON**

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**ELWIN HODGINS**

Sally Rafferty

**DR. JACOBSON**

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**JULIE JOHNS**

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Leslie Langenderfer

**BROOKE JORDAN**

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**BEKKI KEMP**

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**AND MR. AND MRS. MARK HUBAY**

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