

Donations

Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to support the good work of OAR. Visit www.OARonline.org to make a secure online contribution. You can send checks made payable to OAR to the mailing address below, or you can contribute through:



Designation # 8078



Combined Federal Campaign
Designation # 26226



Arlington, Virginia:

1400 N. Uhle Street, Suite 704,
Arlington, VA 22201

P: 703-228-7030 F: 703-228-3981

Washington DC/ District of Columbia:

3124 Georgia Avenue, 2nd floor,
Washington DC 20010

P: 202-506-4075 F: 202-506-4102

E-mail: info@OARonline.org

Website: www.OARonline.org



Serving the County of Arlington
and the Cities of Alexandria and
Falls Church in Virginia, and
Washington DC

Restoring Wholeness to your Community

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Today's inmates are tomorrow's neighbors

OAR Mission

OAR, a community-based restorative justice organization, blends compassion and accountability to assist offenders in leading productive and responsible lives, to the benefit of all.

OAR History and Purpose

The OAR movement began in 1968 when a group of concerned citizens led by Jay Worrell Jr. responded to a prison riot in Charlottesville, Virginia. These citizens envisioned a criminal justice system in which restorative justice was the driving force. Two themes that permeate restorative justice are individual responsibility and the unique role of the community. Restorative justice personalizes the law by proposing that crime is a violation of both the victim and the community. Both have suffered and both must be healed. The community has a vested interest in assisting the offender in his or her post-incarceration transition. It offers the means and opportunities to restore the offender as a responsible, productive, and law-abiding member of society while holding the offender accountable for his or her offense and offers ways for him or her to make amends – to make right from wrong. The ultimate goal is to break the costly cycle of recidivism and create a more just system.

Did you know?

- One in every 31 adults in the United States is incarcerated or on probation and parole.
- If current trends continue, 1 in 3 black males born today will spend time in state or federal prison during their lifetime.
- Children of offenders are 70% more likely to become involved in the criminal justice system.
- The state of Virginia spent an increased 42% of funding on higher education in the past 15 years, while the funding for corrections has increased 76%.

Our Clients

It is true that *Today's inmates are tomorrow's neighbors*. 95% of the people in our jails and prisons will return to our communities one day. Some will become our employees. Some will be our students. Some we will see at the grocery store, at the bus stop, at the parks where our children play. And some will even become our friends and colleagues. Many are parents and in fact collectively OAR clients that received services in FY2009 has over 1,280 children.

Offenders are people of all races, religions, sex, age, ethnicity and backgrounds. Many are educated and many are not. All have made mistakes that have had a drastic impact on their lives and often on society.

At OAR, we offer every offender we serve the opportunity to return to society as a more responsible, more educated, more self-sufficient person than they were when they entered jail. The result is safer, healthier, more productive communities for all.

How does Restorative Justice affect you and your family?

Join us for a one-hour tour

Come to a one-hour Tour and hear about what we are doing on behalf of the community to Restore Individuals to Wholeness, Support Families and Children, and Strengthen our Communities and our Youth.

Where: The OAR office is across from the Arlington County Court House and next to the AMC Movie Theater. Metro accessible: Court House Metro Station. Parking is available in front of the building.

When: Twice a month. Call or visit the OAR website for dates.

We promise to finish in one-hour. For details, if you have any questions, or if you want to reserve a date please contact Elizabeth Jones at 703.228.7030.

OAR'S SERVICES AND PROGRAMS

Reentry Services

All of OAR's programs and services focus on one goal: helping our clients achieve and maintain successful re-entry and lead lives as productive members of society.

OAR provides vital re-entry services to our clients who seek supportive case management and referrals. Re-entry services include employment counseling, job placement, referrals for food, shelter, provision of I.D. cards, transportation, mental and physical healthcare, and substance abuse treatment and counseling. Just in the 2009 fiscal year, **OAR provided more than 2,611 direct service units of assistance and referrals.**

OAR works closely with community businesses to which we refer appropriate clients for employment. OAR staff work to provide information to prospective employers on the benefits and risks of employing ex-offenders. Staff also works closely with each client to monitor their progress.

Through our Get Smart Speakers Bureau, ex-offenders are able to give back to the community by sharing their experiences and wisdom at speaking engagements in the media, schools, faith communities, and at community events.

Did you know that in FY2009?

- OAR served 2,333 clients. Collectively our clients have 1288 children. 412 of those children received gifts through OAR's Project Christmas Angel
- OAR provided 441 ex-offenders with employment assistance and counseling and of those 103 clients were directly placed into jobs
- 777 transportation tokens and Greyhound tickets were given out
- 164 clients received food assistance
- 203 clients received clothing assistance

Community Service Program

OAR's Community Service Program is essential to help keep our communities safe while simultaneously giving offenders a productive alternative to jail. The practice of using Community Service achieves many positive outcomes for the offending individuals, the partnering organizations, and the community as a whole, making this a practical application of the restorative justice concept.

Community Service clients provide partnering organizations with thousands of hours of volunteer service. This saves community organizations hundreds of thousands of dollars annually and often provides skills and expertise that they may not otherwise be able to afford. In FY09 OAR served **786 community service clients (45% juveniles and 55% adults)** who were diverted from incarceration and instead given a Community Service sanction by the court. The result is an estimated **48,000 hours of service** to community organizations for a total estimated organizational savings of over **\$536,000.**

Currently more than **300 community organizations, churches, and government agencies** accept individuals sentenced to Community Service. OAR works closely with partnering organizations to monitor the performance of each community service placement, address issues and concerns, and provide support when needed.

For the community as a whole, keeping the jail population to a minimum saves tax dollars and helps focus on rehabilitation and improving the community.

OAR operates the Community Service Program for Arlington and Falls Church courts. In the Fall of 2009, OAR was awarded a grant from the DC Justice Assistance Program to open a Community Service Program for Youth working with at least 350 juveniles in Ward 1 of the District of Columbia, Washington DC.

Volunteer and Education Services

OAR is proud to have over 230 volunteers who serve clients in a number of ways. These individuals, caring members of our community, go into the detention center to teach and tutor, provide post-release instruction and mentoring, create and update curricula, and assist at OAR events. Volunteers bring hope to so many of our clients who have been largely forgotten by society, by their friends, and even by their families. Our volunteers bring a positive attitude, encouragement, wisdom and a vast array of skills that brighten and enhance the lives of our clients daily. **OAR Volunteers contribute an average of 4,851 hours and teach more than 40 different classes to incarcerated individuals yearly.** OAR classes include: Anger Management, Stress Management, Health Awareness, Parenting, Computer Skills, Life Skills, Employability Readiness, GED tutoring, and Conflict Resolution. Without our volunteers, OAR could not provide so many vital services.

Did you know that in FY2009?

- 238 clients received housing assistance and we saw 223 homeless clients
- OAR assisted 197 clients to get their ID and/or birth certificate.
- On average 85% of community service cases are completed successfully.
- About 832 clients attended OAR's educational/vocational courses in and out of the detention centers. 471 of those were clients who completed OAR's Employability Readiness Course. About 85% of those courses were taught by OAR Volunteers.
- 157 community members took a one-hour OAR Tour.

Meet an OAR Client

Barbara, a 54-year-old woman who was in and out of prison and drug rehabilitation treatment, was desperately searching for a job. Barbara was going to be evicted from her treatment program if she did not find employment within 90 days.

She came to OAR and we were able to find her a job as an Administrative Assistant in a DC non-profit. Barbara completed her treatment, is off probation, has been happily employed for a year, and she reunited with her family.

Wish List

- Employment Partners (transitional and permanent employment opportunities)
- Printing Assistance for special event copying
- Volunteers to facilitate courses in and out of the detention centers and to assist with administrative tasks at the OAR office.
- Metro Cards which allow clients to travel to job interviews
- Food Vouchers for client meals while they are waiting to receive their first paycheck
- Backpacks and travel sacks for clients to carry their personal items
- Cleaning supplies for clients who are moving into a new home.
- Office Supplies (standard copy paper, post it notes, and two small or medium shredder)
- School supplies (notebooks, pencils, pocket folders, color pencils, pens)