

# Volunteer Update

ISSUE 3

FEBRUARY 2007/ MARCH 2007 ISSUE



## From the Director of Volunteer and Education Services

We are so excited to see you at our Appreciation Luncheon on Sunday, March 25, from 1:00pm to 3:00pm at Toscana Grill! Don't forget to RSVP to attend this great event. There will be great food and great company so all we need is You!

Save the date for our next Volunteer Training Workshop which is scheduled for April 14 2:30pm to 5:00pm. The Public Defender for Alexandria will be speaking to us about the Criminal Justice System.

Don't forget to VOTE for OAR every day until March 31st. Go to our website, click on Vote Daily for OAR and vote for us. Five minutes of your time can help us win \$5000 or even \$100,000 if we get the most votes! Vote Daily!

In this issue of the Volunteer Update you will also read about the great success we had at Sage Flowers for their 1st Valentine's Day. A past intern also wrote in to tell us how she was doing and you will get to read about her plans and how her work with OAR has shaped them. One of our board members also submitted an article on Restorative Justice, which allows us to continue our discussion on the great work we are doing. Please take a look at the Events of Interest section and attend the Restorative Justice Forum on March 31st with the Virginia State Delegate David Englin.

For the 2nd year in a row we have won the ExxonMobil grant that will allow us to hire a Summer Intern. Please read the featured story for more information. And spread the word!

In our Classroom Tips section, I have chosen to write about Boundaries! This topic can not be discussed enough and after reading an article that was very insightful I wanted to refresh your memories on this very important topic.

Michael Anderson's article choice for this Volunteer Update is very inspiring and it talks about an offender making a difference by saving a child's life!

Please note that the next OAR Newsletter *Transformations* will be published online only. To sign up please visit our website.

Elizabeth Jones Valderrama



### Inside this issue:

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Paid Summer Intern                                 | 1 |
| Outstanding Deputies Restorative Justice           | 2 |
| Sage Flowers' Valentine's Michael's Article Choice | 2 |
| Past Intern Writes Us Classroom Tips               | 3 |
| Events of Interest                                 | 3 |
| Please take Note!                                  | 4 |
| Volunteer Opportunities                            | 4 |

## Spread the Word: Paid Summer Intern Position Available

For the second year in a row, OAR's Volunteer Services Program has won a \$2000 grant to hire a summer intern. "Each summer, ExxonMobil and Volunteer Fairfax provide 60 local nonprofit agencies with grants designated to hire college interns for eight weeks during the summer. Students are introduced to nonprofit social, cultural and health service organizations in the hope that they will consider careers or volunteer leadership positions in the nonprofit sector. This program provides the agencies with much-needed help and gives students the opportunity to learn more about nonprofit careers" (Volunteer Fairfax website).

OAR is looking for a Volunteer Services Intern who will assist Elizabeth with the

program. The intern will perform a variety of duties including, but not limited to, coordinating and facilitating pre-service as well as in-service training for new volunteers, researching and creating workshops focused on volunteer needs, assisting with volunteer appreciation events and daily recognition, updating the volunteer handbook and database, recruitment of new interns and volunteers, and creating training modules for the volunteer website. The intern will fill in as needed with facilitation of classes in the detention facility. But most importantly the intern chosen will be a resource to you, our Volunteers!

The intern must be: an undergraduate student enrolled full time for both Spring 2007

and Fall 2007, have working knowledge of Access database, be proficient with the Microsoft Suite, be a self starter, energetic, detail oriented, creative, independent, quick learner, a people person, and know the value of Volunteerism.

The applicant must submit a resume, cover letter, verification of current and future school enrollment both semester, and a writing sample that meets certain guidelines. Please contact Elizabeth at [ejones@oaronline.org](mailto:ejones@oaronline.org) to get the Intern Job Description and the Application Guidelines. The completed applications are due April 10, 2007 at 5:00pm. Qualifying interns will be interviewed by a panel and the decision will be made by April 29, 2007.

## Outstanding Deputies: Nominations needed

As our Sunday, March 25, 2007 Volunteer and Partner Appreciation Lunch approaches I have a special request. I would like to again recognize our Outstanding Deputies and Staff from both Alexandria Detention Center and Arlington County Detention Facility that go above and beyond and/or those that have caused you to say "Wow, that deputy/staff member was really great!" To do this I need your help. If you know the names of any deputies or staff that have make you feel great when you enter the facility, assist you with programming (set up or otherwise), and/or provide any type of support please send the names to Jessye Pennington, OAR's Programming Intern, at [jpennington@oaronline.org](mailto:jpennington@oaronline.org) or call her at 703-228-7030 by noon on Thursday, March 20, 2007. If possible please also write a couple of words as to why they were so helpful and so outstanding! We are looking forward to receiving all the names and to honoring them for supporting the most important part of OAR... You the OAR Volunteers!

## Some thoughts on Restorative Justice...

By Pamela Bulloch, OAR Board of Directors

Reading about the Ndembu tribe of South Africa introduced me to restorative justice. When a tribal member committed a wrong, he was stripped of his tribal symbols and isolated from the tribe for some time. When he returned, he was considered healed, and therefore forgiven, celebrated, and welcomed back into the tribal community.



We also each have a community deep within ourselves. A subtle yet significant part of the work of restorative justice is to help clients go within to honor and recognize their positive gifts, as well as facing their negative responses to extreme challenges. The goal is to bring that inner community together, as one, and provide loving support to the suffering child, the top-dog survivor, the shattered sense of hope and renewal. This initiates healing and self-forgiveness, which positively transforms one's sense of self and the possibility of living an extraordinarily beautiful life.

## Sage Flowers' 1st Valentine's Day: Great Success

After much preparation, hard work, long hours, and team work, Sage Flowers' 1st Valentine's Day was a great success! Close to 30 Volunteers, Family Members, and OAR Staff Members came out to assist for this magical event. The snow and ice did not dampen our excitement, and drivers traveled all over the DC Metro Area for several days providing smiles to those waiting for their special delivery. The arrange-

ments were romantic, stylish, and made with love.

Anyone entering the storage space next to the shop was taken back when seeing the thousands of roses, tulips, carnations, lilies, greens, and vases. "You can not help but smile" said a volunteer amazed with the beauty. She was right!



Sage Flowers was able to send out over 600 arrangements just the week of February 12. That is more than some flower shops send out in over 6 months! As we continue planning for our next big event, Mother's Day, we are hoping to get more Volunteers involved. Please contact Katy to start setting up your volunteer times at 703-451-3021. See you then!

## Michael Anderson's Article Choice



*Each month Michael Anderson, OAR Volunteer, researches and selects a news article that is featured in the Volunteer Update. Enjoy!*

### Inmate describes saving baby in prison

A federal prison inmate is telling the story of how he came to the rescue of a 15-month-old boy.

Kari Rose-Adams was visiting her brother at the Sheridan Federal Prison when her son, Asher suddenly started having a seizure and stopped breathing.

"At one point I said 'he's dying,'" she recalled. "He was blue and then he turned white."

The sister of another inmate told the family that her brother knew infant CPR.

Witnesses said Ashton was lifeless when inmate Frank Witter, a personal trainer serving 2.5 years for distributing steroids, approached from across the room.

"All I heard was a woman yelling my child's not breathing," Witter said "I put it over my arm and smacked it in the back a little. It would take a (gasp) and then I would it hear it go, whew out, in and out."

Within minutes, Asher was back. Frank handed him to another man in the room. But it didn't last long. The toddler relapsed and stopped breathing once again.

And again Witter came to the rescue.

Asher did not relapse again and is back at

home now, recovering and doing his favorite things – like playing with blocks and learning to walk.

Witter said it was the best day of his life.

"We'll owe his life to him," Kari said. "God gave him back to me and it was through the hands of that inmate."

Prison officials said Witter was also being considered for a special award. He has about a year left on his sentence.

"It started moving it's hands and then it opened it's eyes, yeah it was a pretty good thing," Witter said. "I don't think you can judge a person by their best act or their worst act. That may have been my best act ever. If it is, that's great."

## Comments from a Past OAR Intern

I am lucky to be able to stay in contact with our past OAR interns and receive great news about their success after interning with OAR. I recently heard from Carey who interned with us for 6 months and close to 650 hours! Here is what she said: "My most memorable moment while at OAR was during one of the reentry group substance abuse classes. There were five guys in the group who were pretty close and being released around the same time. One of the guys had been locked up on and off for eight years. This year was going to be the first in eight that he was going to be out for his birthday. The guys in the group decided to meet up for his birthday and have dinner and then all go to an AA meeting to-

gether afterwards. I don't know if it ever happened, but just the fact that it was a thought in their minds made me feel good about the work I was doing. Right now I am working as a family social worker in a preventive program for Deaf families in NYC. Any family which has one or more deaf children is referred to our agency by Child Protective Services. My job is to work with the family to correct the problems that are putting the child and family at risk. Working in Arlington County definitely taught me not to back down. Sometimes if you push hard enough, you can even win the clients over. Originally,

my plan for the future was to work in juvenile detention and hopefully one day open my own group home for juvenile first time offenders. However, the experience I had interning with OAR got me really interested in the youth offender (17-25) population as well as substance abuse treatment. I've been looking into prisons and jails that have youth offender programs and I think working for something like that may be my next step."

-Carey



## Classroom Tips– Boundaries, Boundaries, Boundaries!

After coming across an article entitled "Exploding the Myths about Staff Sexual Misconduct with Inmates" I wanted to refresh your memory on the very important topic of Boundaries. The article reads: "Compassion and understanding are necessary to manage inmates and to maintain equilibrium in the jail environment. However, compassion and understanding can also become the means by which inmates engage staff to do small favors, gain "trust", or learn more about the staff's personal life. Sometimes inmates are more attuned to noticing [deputies and volunteers] that are troubled than [their own supervisor or] sergeant." (a)

A quote that really made me want to bring this up again was "inmates are more vulnerable to involvement in sexual misconduct

due to their histories of physical, sexual and substance abuse" (a). The clients are used to having inappropriate relationships and people in their lives. As positive Role Models, we need to make sure that we are always demonstrating what a professional individual and relationship feels like. If we do not do this we are missing the chance to have a positive impact on our clients.

We need to be vigilant and make sure that our interactions with the clients are not viewed as inappropriate. Both of the detention facilities OAR works with have a Zero Tolerance policy in regards to inappropriate relationships and overstepping of boundaries for both Staff and Volunteers. Which means that at any sign or insinuation of inappropriate behavior, the Staff Member or Volunteer will be investigated and may

be asked to leave. In some cases, they can even be prosecuted. It is imperative that we all work together to remind each other that by overstepping the boundaries we are harming the clients we work with not helping them. Don't forget: don't accept or write letters or poems; don't share or allow them to share personal details; allow for closure to take place without promising to continue the contact; and always follow all jail and OAR guidelines. Whenever in doubt, please contact me so that we can talk about what is permitted or not. Together we can make an impact on the clients' lives, and help them return to society and become productive citizens.

(a) *Layman, McCampbell, & Moss*

<http://www.cipp.org/pdf/jailsex.pdf>

## Events of Interest

**2nd Annual Volunteer and Partnership Luncheon:** OAR would like to thank all of our volunteers and partners for their contributions to restorative justice. We would like to cordially invite you to our Volunteer and Partnership Appreciation Lunch on **Sunday, March 25, 2007** from **1:00pm to 3:00pm** at **Toscana Grill** located in **Courthouse Plaza**. We will honor our Volunteers and Partners, recognize our Volunteer of the Year with the Ms. Eliza-

beth "Betty" Ahern Award, salute outstanding deputies, and celebrate new programs! Come share our gratitude and be inspired just as you inspire US! **Please RSVP** to Chauncia at 703-228-7030 no later than March 20, 2007.

**Restorative Justice Forum:** Anyone who is interested in improving public safety, in responding to victims of crime in ways that promote repair and healing, and/or peace building, is invited to attend the upcoming

**Community Forum on Restorative Justice called by Virginia State Delegate David Englin.** The Forum is co-sponsored by the Alexandria League of Women Voters, OAR, the Social Action Council of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington and other community organizations. **When: Saturday, March 31, from 9 am to 12:30 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Church located at 4444 Arlington Blvd, Arlington, VA, 22204.** For more information and to **RSVP** please contact Phyllis at [phyllislaw@comcast.net](mailto:phyllislaw@comcast.net) or 703-868-9320.

# OAR Offender Aid and Restoration

Court Square West Phone: 703-228-7030  
1400 North Uhle Street Fax: 703-228-3981  
Suit 704 E-mail:  
Arlington Virginia 22201 info@oaronline.org

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## Please take Note!

### Reminders

- \* Arlington Volunteers: Please make sure that the materials you are taking in do not have staples or paperclips on them. For questions on this please contact Elizabeth.
- \* Please remember to have the clients in your sessions fill out the OAR Registration Form. All clients must have this form on file to be enrolled in an OAR program. Forms are available in Arlington in Elizabeth's mailbox at Inmate Services or by email.
- \* Please remember not to take all your personal belongings into the facilities. If you must take things in please make sure you take them back out when you leave. Unless it has been approved please do not leave anything with the clients. Anything else can be considered contraband.
- \* Don't forget to send in your hours to Chauncia Jones, Volunteer Services Intern! Every Monday you will receive an email asking for the hours you have volunteered the previous week. This includes travel time to and from location, planning and preparation, facilitation, meeting, administrative work, coordination, and one on one sessions.
- \* Dress code No No's: No jeans, No tennis shoes, No t-shirts, No open toe shoes or sandals, No revealing or provocative clothing, No Lycra or Spandex pants or tops, No sleeveless tops, No skirts. Don't forget: Our attire is a representation of who we are: Positive Role Models!

### OAR's 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.

### History and Purpose

The OAR movement began in 1968 when a group of concerned Citizens, led by Jay Worrall Jr., responded to a prison riot in Charlottesville, Virginia. These citizens envisioned an improved criminal justice system in which inmates are assisted by trained volunteers from the community. Through ongoing contact with community volunteers it was hoped that inmates would be empowered with information and encouraged to transform their experiences toward responsible and productive lives. The ultimate goal was to break the costly cycle of recidivism and create a more just system. This nationally recognized model program was incorporated as OAR/USA in 1973 and currently has affiliated but autonomous offices in four states. OAR serving Arlington, Alexandria, and Falls Church, began in 1974.

### Volunteer Opportunities

- \*GED Course Assistants are needed every Thursday from 7:00pm to 9:00pm to take attendance and be present at the GED sessions in the Clarendon Education Center. **New!!**
  - \***New:** Do you like Children? Provide Educational Child-care once a month on Saturdays for a new OAR Service: Women's Support Group for Spouses and Partners of the Incarcerated
  - \*Do you know Customer Service? Come teach it to our Men and Women in MASTERS and WEC! Flexible Hours **New!!**
  - \***Ongoing:** Literacy Volunteers Needed: Free training and flexible times available!
  - \***Ongoing:** Spanish Speaking Volunteers are needed to facilitate courses with an established curriculum. Flexible times.
- Interested in the opportunities above? Know someone perfect for the job? Contact Elizabeth at 703-228-7030 or by email at [ejones@oaronline.org](mailto:ejones@oaronline.org)

## Calendar

### March

- 15 Deadline for Outstanding Deputy Nominations
- 24 Weekend Arlington Facility Security Orientation
- 25 Volunteer and Partner Appreciation Lunch
- 31 Restorative Justice Forum with Phyllis

### April

- 3 Weekday Arlington Facility Security Orientation
- 10 Deadline for Summer Intern Applications
- 14 OAR Volunteer Training Workshop 2:30pm to 5:00pm
- 28 Weekend Alexandria Detention Security Orientation
- 29 Decision made for Summer Intern

