

# TRANSFORMATIONS

## From the Executive Director

This has been a year of transitions – dare I say *transformations*!

We now have four Spanish-speakers on staff, a Grants Manager, a new Director of Education and Training, and a new Director of Reentry and Outreach. We have a sophisticated database for tracking clients and resources. We are active members of the Arlington Non-Profit Network and other organizations in Northern Virginia. And, we have launched **Sage Flowers** to help us diversify our funding and eventually provide clients with training and jobs.

Over 2.1 million people are incarcerated in the United States today; 600,000 of them return to their communities each year. Unless we have resources in the community to help them find shelter, secure a job, and start building new relationships, over 60% of them will return to prison within three years. Some return for parole violations, but others will return because they commit another crime. In many ways, OAR is in the public safety business. We are in the people business too. OAR works daily to help former offenders make that difficult transition successfully. Their successes are our successes. We are inspired by the transformations we witness each day.

I hope you enjoy reading about the many ways OAR is helping to meet the needs of inmates and former offenders. In the coming year we hope to expand to offering family support services and expanded services for juvenile offenders. Come join our talented group of volunteers that make all of OAR's programs and services possible.

Gail C. Arnall  
Executive Director

## SAGE FLOWERS: OAR'S FIRST SUBSIDIARY

OAR is now in the flower business! After months of thinking about how OAR can generate income, and eventually employ some of our clients as well, we decided to pursue the creation of a flower shop.

Why flowers? Because long-time volunteer coordinator **Katy Steinbruck** has 10-years experience working in and managing flower shops, and was interested in creating a flower shop for OAR. As capital venture investors will tell you: find the talent first when thinking about starting a new business.

The name SAGE FLOWERS came from a marketing committee composed of **Katy, Joiwind Ronen**, former interim OAR Executive Director, and OAR Board Member **Nancy Swift**. The shop is located at 7018 Commerce Street in Springfield, VA. The Springfield location was selected as a result of a unique business arrangement created with Michael's Flowers of Lake Ridge. Through this arrangement, SAGE FLOWERS will benefit from telephone traffic from Springfield that had previously gone to the Lake Ridge shop, as well as benefit from combined ordering and deliv-

ery strategies. We are so grateful to **Chris Polychrones**, owner of Michael's Flowers of Lake Ridge, for working with us to launch the new business. We could not have done it without him or the Sage Flowers' staff, **Katy**, and our Senior Designers **Dahl Frederics** and **Wayne Ryan**, who have been instrumental throughout the process.



We hope you will order your flowers from SAGE FLOWERS, where the creativity of **Dahl** and **Wayne** will amaze you every time. Sage Flowers delivers across the Washington Metropolitan area, as well as works with FTD, Teleflora and 1-800 Flowers to provide flowers nationwide. ALL of the profit from

the shop will go toward supporting OAR programs and services.

The strategy of creating for-profit businesses to support non-profit operations is fast becoming a trend in the non-profit world. OAR used as its model the highly successful Delancy Street Project in San Francisco. It is our hope that three years from now we not only have the Springfield Shop generating money for OAR, but we have as many as six flower kiosks around Northern Virginia, operating on a revenue-sharing basis by former OAR clients who have been trained to run their own flower kiosk business. At that point perhaps we will look for another business to start! Our thanks go to the Virginia Law Foundation for their continued support in this initiative.

**Now Open for Business!**

**Sage Flowers...Wisdom in Every Creation**

**7018 Commerce Street**

**Springfield, VA 22150**

**703-451-3021**

**[www.sageflowers.net](http://www.sageflowers.net)**

## WE HELP ONE PERSON AT A TIME

**Will Wilson**, Director of Re-entry and Outreach

Last week I attended my first OAR Offender Support Group meeting during which one of the men in the group shared a wonderful story with me.

He said that he had previously been arrested and incarcerated for 13 years. Once he had served his 13 year prison sentence he was released, and within weeks he had committed another crime which sent him back to prison for an additional 13 years.

When he completed his sentence last fall, he stated that he had nothing: no place to live, no money, no job and no friends who would help him. He had heard through the grape vine that there was an organization called OAR that could possibly assist him, so he took the chance and called.

He spoke to one of our Re-entry Case Managers who immediately sought information about his situation. Upon attempting to find our

office, he got lost and in frustration and desperation called the Case Manager. When she answered he felt that she seemed genuinely eager to help him. She immediately attempted to locate where he was, which turned out to be just outside the OAR offices in Arlington. The Case Manager then took the time to go outside to find him. He said that

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## NEW STAFF JOINED THE OAR TEAM IN 2006

**Melissa Rea** – Director of Education and Training

OAR has never had a director of education before **Melissa** joined the staff in February, 2006. Prior to coming to OAR, **Melissa**



was the director of education at the Arlington County Detention Center for seven years, responsible for the successful GED program there. After a year-long leave of absence, during which time she completed her MS degree in Adult Learning, she came to OAR to be responsible for the curriculum for all of the OAR classes in both the Arlington and Alexandria facilities. See evidence of her hard work in our list of classes on Page 3

**Will Wilson** – Director of Re-entry and Outreach

In July, **Will** became OAR's first Director of Re-entry and Outreach, assuming the responsibilities of the former coordinator of employment and transition position, and adding outreach activities. In this capacity he oversees the work of the Community Service Unit as well. Prior to joining OAR, Will had served for seven years in several positions at correctional institutions run by Cornell Companies, located in Pennsylvania and Washington, DC. Most recently he served as Executive Director for a day treatment community-based program for delinquent and dependent juveniles. He is a qualified drug and alcohol counselor and worked in that capacity for several years prior



to working with Cornell.

**Charlyne Braxton** – Receptionist

The voice you hear on the phone and the face that greets you at the door is **Charlyne Braxton**, who joined the OAR staff in June. She came to OAR from having served in internet customer service for Hecht's for the previous five years. **Charlyne** keeps all of the appointment schedules for Re-entry and Community Service staff, as well as maintaining administrative services. She is currently working on her associate's degree in criminal justice as well as certification as a substance abuse counselor. And on the weekends she is a part time counselor at Arlington's RPC Detox Center. *Continued on Page 4*



## VERIZON FOUNDATION SUPPORTS OAR'S LITERACY PROGRAM

With funding from the Verizon Foundation, OAR has launched a *Literacy for Life* Program. This exciting program serves incarcerated individuals in both facilities as well as OAR clients who have been released. In jails across America, there are people who cannot read and write, or have very basic literacy skills. The time they spend in jail is the best time for them to learn these skills

so that they have a better chance of finding lasting employment once they are released. OAR is excited to be able to offer this program and thanks the Verizon Foundation for its support. To volunteer with the *Literacy for Life Program*, contact: **Elizabeth Jones Valderrama** at 703-228-7031 or at [ejones@oaronline.org](mailto:ejones@oaronline.org).

**"It's one thing to have difficulty finding a new job. It's quite another to have difficulty filling out an application."** Verizon Literacy Campus

## ARLINGTON COUNTY FAIR A SUCCESS!

About 45 Community Service Clients, provide support each year for the Arlington Fair – setting up tables, moving furniture, and doing all of the odd jobs that an event of this size calls for. **Jeremy Rinker**, OAR's Community Service Coordinator, **Clarence Barner**, OAR CSP Case Manager, and **Maria Aponte**, OAR CSP Case Manager, worked diligently to coordinate all the clients.

**Elizabeth Jones Valderrama**, OAR's Volunteer Services Coordinator, and **Lindsay Caldwell**, Volunteer Services Summer Intern, coordinated the OAR Volunteers, Staff, and Board Members who assisted at the OAR Booth this year.

The booth could not have run as smoothly without the following Volunteers and Board

Members: **Tara, Karin, Patricia, Daniela, Mary Jean, Bruce, Amy, Mignette, Lawrence, Nancy, Rajaa, Bobbie, Kayra, Michael, Lindsay, Bill, and Jennifer.**

And who can forget the OAR Staff Members: **Maria Aponte, Gail Arnall, Clarence Barner, Sue Bell, Juanita DeSahzior, Christian Jones, Elizabeth Jones Valderrama, Melissa Rea, Jeremy Rinker, Alexis Van Bevers, and Tasheda Wood.**

Thank you to everyone who participated in making the 2006 Fair a great success.

Everyone agrees: this year's was the best yet!



**Kayra**, long time OAR volunteer, and Community Service Coordinator, **Jeremy Rinker**, had a great time at the OAR Booth at the Arlington County Fair. Great picture **Michael!**

Join us in Breaking the Cycle of Crime: Volunteer!

Contact OAR's Volunteer Services Coordinator, Elizabeth Jones Valderrama, at [ejones@oaronline.org](mailto:ejones@oaronline.org)

## SELL ON EBAY AND SUPPORT OAR

Thanks to **Rick Blouin** who gave OAR the contents of his hobby shop last spring, OAR is now making money selling on e-Bay.

After several months trying to figure out how to make money from all of the trains and airplanes and hobby supplies that were safely stored in a rented storage bin, we finally decided to ask the professionals for help.

**Ez Auctioning** located in Alexandria and in Falls Church, take almost any merchandise and put it on e-Bay for you. They handle taking pictures, writing up the descriptions and placing it in the correct categories. They track the bidding and when it is all over, e-Bay keeps 7%, they keep 33% and OAR gets the remaining 60%. We have already received our

first check. We are hoping to make several thousands of dollars with the hobby shop merchandise. But, of course we want more.

So, if you have any items around the house that you do not want to keep, please call us and let's arrange to have the items sold on e-Bay. OAR can give you a tax letter for your contribution. If you can drop the item(s) off at one of the two **Ez Auctioning** locations that would be great. Otherwise, we will be happy to arrange to have someone pick it up. Let us know so we can give **Ez Auctioning** a heads up that you are coming. Your contribution means a lot to those we serve.

Here are the two drop-off locations:

### Ez Auctioning

Alexandria Location:

110 S. West St., 22314

703-842-7541

Falls Church Location:

6013C Wilson Blvd., 22205

## NEWS FROM THE INSIDE- ARLINGTON

OAR is offering a wide range of courses this fall in the Arlington County Detention Center, taught primarily by faithful volunteers and Board members. Most of the classes are offered at night, 7:30 to 9 o'clock. A few classes take place on Saturdays, and during the weekdays.

**Melissa Rea**, OAR's Director of Education and Training, has worked with staff and volunteers to develop a comprehensive curriculum for each class. Most courses run six weeks.

Take a look at what courses are being facilitated this fall:

° Life Skills ° Hispanic Support Group ° Computer Skills ° Anger Management ° Employability Readiness ° Stress Management ° Creative Writing ° Substance Abuse Education ° Parenting ° Working & Staying Employed ° Conflict Resolution ° Impact

of Crime ° Money Management ° Stress Management ° Spanish Anger Management ° Women's Support Group ° Health Awareness

All of these along with ° Mentoring and Tutoring take place on a weekly basis. These courses and programs are made possible because of the commitment of OAR Volunteers, Staff, and Board Members who travel, prepare, and facilitate or meet with our clients to offer them new skills, new perspective, and new opportunities on a weekly basis. OAR couldn't do it without these amazing Volunteers, Staff, and Board Members. Thank you for Impacting Lives!

**Special Thanks to Captain Jay Terner, Director of Inmate Services, and Ms. Jackie Burnette, Program Coordinator, in the Arlington County Detention Center, for their support.**

## NEWS FROM THE INSIDE- ALEXANDRIA

**Christian Jones** oversees OAR's MASTERS Program in the Alexandria Detention Center – an educational program designed to help support men who are working on their GED, as well as, provide life skill classes that include computer skills, anger management and substance abuse education.

This unique program operates in the actual living unit of the jail, all day, five days a week. Volunteers and Interns come inside the living unit to work with **Christian** each day. Between 40 and 55 men are in the program at any given time. Because about half of the men speak only Spanish, OAR has significantly increased the number of Spanish language classes offered, including helping Spanish speakers prepare for the GED test. A graduation ceremony is held inside the

facility twice a year to recognize those who have completed their GED and other course work. This is a very inspirational day.

**Denise Costley** runs OAR's Women Empowered for Change (WEC) program in the Alexandria Detention Center. She too works every day inside a designated living unit within the jail, teaching and overseeing classes for 10 to 15 women at any given time. Most women inmates have their GEDs, so the emphasis in WEC is on the barriers to successful re-entry back into our community. **Denise**, with the help of Volunteers and Interns, teaches classes in domestic violence, parenting, anger management relationship building, conflict resolution, women's health, employability readiness, and substance abuse recovery.



Ms. **Elizabeth**, long time OAR Volunteer, facilitates a Health Awareness class at the Arlington County Detention Facility.

In the end I learned as much as I taught. I hope for inmates like Jose, that I played a helpful role in their journey to re-entering our community equipped with new strategies to make a successful fresh start.

**Vanessa**, Fall 2006 Intern

The program offers emotionally supportive groups, individual counseling and aftercare planning. Denise gets thank you letters from WEC "graduates" months and years after their incarceration.

**Special Thanks to Mondre' Kornegay, Director of Inmate Services, Marlene Venter, Director of Education and Gloria Hicks, Volunteer Coordinator, for their continued support of OAR programs.**

Join us in Breaking the Cycle of Crime: Volunteer!

Contact OAR's Volunteer Services Coordinator, Elizabeth Jones Valderrama, at [ejones@oaronline.org](mailto:ejones@oaronline.org)

## NEW STAFF

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**Christian Jones** – Coordinator of MASTERS

We are most fortunate to have a bi-lingual coordinator of our MASTERS Program in the Alexandria facility. **Christian** took over leadership



of that unit last January. He has a Bachelors Degree from the University of Virginia in Economics and Spanish and a minor in Latin American Studies. After a brief time working as a Financial Advisor, **Christian** decided to take on roles within the Arlington County Government which lead him to the Arlington Public Schools' REEP Program where he worked as an ESL teacher and administrator. He then came to us

after serving two years there. He is working closely with **Melissa Rea** to insure that the men who complete the course work in the MASTERS Program have increased their intellectual and emotional skills, preparing them for a successful re-entry into our community.

**Katy Steinbruck** – Sage Flowers Store Manager

Many long-time supporters of OAR know **Katy** as the OAR Volunteer Coordinator, a position she held for over five years. Last fall she became the Director of Business Development and her assistant, **Elizabeth Jones Valderrama**, became the Volunteer Services Coordinator. Over



the past nine months **Katy** has worked tirelessly to develop and open OAR's new for-profit venture: SAGE FLOWERS. **Katy** is the Store Manager and will be working at the store full time to ensure that this business has a successful launch. Her 10-year experience working in and managing flower shops has made it possible for OAR to move in this direction. For flowers for every occasion please visit **Katy** at:

**Sage Flowers**

**Wisdom in every Creation**

**7018 Commerce Street**

**Springfield, Virginia 22150**

**703-451-3021**

**[www.sageflowers.net](http://www.sageflowers.net)**

**Volunteers: thank you for always maintaining a Professional Presence every time you go to the facilities. Please continue abiding by the Dress Code Policy!**

## JOIN US – PROJECT CHRISTMAS ANGEL: DECEMBER 12TH

Each year many volunteers and supporters of OAR participate in a favorite holiday event called **Project Christmas Angel**. This holiday wrapping party is one of the most amazing events of the season. Typically about 250 volunteers show up to wrap between 800 and 1000 presents for the children of inmates who are incarcerated in the Arlington County Detention Center. All are invited – especially if you have never come before.

**Project Christmas Angel** is held at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 4000 Lorcum Lane in Arlington 22207. The party begins on Tuesday, December 12, 2006 at 6:30 and lasts until about 9:30. Come whenever you can; wrap one present or ten – it will be fun just to have you drop by.

Prior to the event, OAR staff members collect detailed information from inmates about each of their children. They also encourage the inmates to write notes to their children that will be put on the presents before they are wrapped for mailing.

The night of the event, volunteers (often entire families) come to start "shopping." Toys for Tots provides OAR with over 1,000 toys and gifts of every kind, which are arranged around the room by age group. Once two or three presents are selected for each child, then the wrapping begins. Some volunteers create the most wonderful wrapping designs ever seen! Once wrapped in colorful holiday paper, the card from the inmate is affixed, and then the volunteer wraps the gifts in brown paper for mailing, carefully addressing the package so that it will arrive correctly and on time.

Music is playing, pizza and other food is available, and there really is good cheer as people from the community come together to make a difference in the life of children. "This is one of our family's holiday traditions," said one volunteer. "We wouldn't miss it."

OAR spends about \$5,000 on this event, mostly underwritten by gifts from schools and organizations around the county. The postage

alone runs over \$2,200. So, if you would like to make a special donation this year, please send it to OAR, designated for Christmas Angel.

See you at the party!



Volunteers at OAR's Project Christmas Angel Wrapping Party 2005

After last year's Project Christmas Angel, **Shelley**, a mother of two and wife of an incarcerated husband, wrote a heartfelt letter to OAR to express her gratitude since her children received gifts from OAR with a note from their father. Shelley writes:

**"You made a very difficult time in our lives a bit more pleasant for my family."**

**Join us in Breaking the Cycle of Crime: Volunteer!**

Contact OAR's Volunteer Services Coordinator, **Elizabeth Jones Valderrama**, at [ejones@oaronline.org](mailto:ejones@oaronline.org)

## THANK YOU EMPLOYERS

OAR is grateful to all of the employers that have hired OAR clients over the years. We would like to thank the following employers for hiring OAR clients:

- Red Top Cab
- Washington Detailing
- Giant Food

- Harris Teeter
- DC Convention Center
- Woodrow Wilson Bridge Project
- Goodwill of Greater Washington

Thank you for believing in our clients and providing them with an opportunity to grow and to succeed.

## CLIENT SUCCESS STORY

Each day OAR staff strives to provide the best services and programs for our clients. It brings us so much joy to know that there are many clients out there succeeding. Recently, Reentry Advisor, **Alexis Van Bevers** spoke with one of them. **Guy**, a current OAR client, praised OAR when stating "OAR has assisted me in obtaining my

drivers license. I was also able to learn how to use the computer at the computer classes offered at the OAR office. Which allowed me to be able to take



the drivers license test on the computer and finally pass the exam. OAR has also assisted me in seeking employment. The Reentry and Outreach Advisors, **Tasheda Wood**, **Alexis Van Bevers**, and **Juanita De-Shazior**, and Director, **Will Wilson**, have also helped me mature in my own personal life. I have the ability to say no to people, which has been a big problem for me in the past. I was always willing to please, and now have learned my own well-being comes first. Because of OAR, I can now hope to be a home owner, working full time, continuing my singing career and restarting my band".

## WE HELP ONE PERSON AT A TIME

*Continued from Page 1*

she led him by the hand into the office, sat down with him and began to help him develop a plan of action. First, she got him into a shelter. Next, she gathered clean clothing for him. Then she issued him transportation vouchers. Finally, she talked to him about getting into a drug treatment program.

Although these acts may appear simple or meaningless to us, they meant the world to this young man in crisis. He stated to me, "She will never know how her actions helped me that day. I could hardly believe it when she took my hand and led me into the building. She helped save my life."

He shared with me during the support group meeting that even with all of her efforts to support him he had just failed his drug test and was likely going to be kicked out of the

shelter he was currently in. "I am so embarrassed," he said. "I know I am going to be such a disappointment to my Case Manager when I see her tomorrow." The

**"She will never know how her actions helped me that day. I could hardly believe it when she took my hand and led me into the building."**

fact that this young man was not only concerned with failing himself but also concerned with failing his Case Manager's expectations is evidence of the concern, love, warmth and genuine support he received. The Case Manager's ability to meet this young man at the level that he was on, and then aid in elevating him to a level that she felt that he should and could be on, is what we are trying to do everyday at OAR.

We will continue to work with this man, and other individuals who come to us; one person at a time, until they can find their rightful place in our community. We do our best to see each individual with eyes of love, compassion and empathy.

**Join us in Breaking the Cycle of Crime: Volunteer!**

## SUPPORTING OAR

Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to support the good work of OAR. Visit [www.oaronline.org](http://www.oaronline.org) to make a secure online payment. You can send checks made payable to OAR to: 1400 N. Uhle St, Suite 704, Arlington, VA 22201.

## VOLUNTEER NEEDS...

We are always looking for volunteers so please talk about us and refer anyone interested to Elizabeth Jones Valderrama at 703-228-7031. We are especially looking for facilitators who can lead courses or work with individuals on the following topics:

- Money Management
- Computer Skills
- Substance Abuse
- Spanish Life Skills
- Men's Support Group
- Stress Management
- Literacy
- GED

## OAR'S WISH LIST

- Yarn
- Educational Materials
- Financial contributions for Project Christmas Angel (postage and supplies)
- Administrative Supplies
- School Supplies
- Financial Contributions for any OAR Department

## AN INTERVIEW WITH STUART HAMILTON ~ OAR VOLUNTEER

**Stuart Hamilton** has been a volunteer with OAR for about three years. Recently another OAR Volunteer **Amy Tucker** interviewed him about his experience with OAR.

**Tell about your experience volunteering with OAR?** I started volunteering at OAR about three years ago. A friend had mentioned that he had once acted as a mentor for an inmate, and that steered my interest. Because of my professional experience I wanted to develop a course that helped inmates understand how to introduce “success” into their future. The Leadership and Life Skills Course is a seven week course that focuses on topics like “Trust”, “Building Relationships”, and “Developing goals”.

**Did you have any hesitations upon initially becoming involved in the program?** I am perfectly comfortable now teaching at the jail, but I do remember some initial trepidation.

My sister-in-law lent me a book that explained how inmates manipulate prison staff and visitors, and this made me unduly nervous about the interaction. On my first tour of the jail I was quite nervous!

**What did you learn from the people you were working to help?** I have learnt how difficult the inmates find it to take action to develop plans, and then translate planning into action. It is all very well to preach a diet of what is needed to embrace success, but if the class doesn't feel empowered to act, then it is just theory. In my classes I want them to know that following the guidelines will unavoidably lead to success.

**What new perspective did you get?** I've learned a greater understanding about presenting choices rather than pressing your own perspective.

**Did you feel your efforts were appreciated?** It is difficult to know how much difference the

class makes – I receive positive feedback from the inmates, but how much that enthusiasm is translated into action is still unknown. I can only hope that some of what I teach takes hold, whether immediately or some time in the future.

**How does it feel to play an active role in restorative justice?** I'm glad that I can help a section of the public that needs it. Inmates have a difficult time after release and their self-esteem takes a hit. Working to develop their empowerment makes me hopeful that it will make a difference, and that involvement in rehabilitation rather than punishment will benefit not just the inmates, but the community as well.



## INTERN NEWS

Every semester and during the summer, OAR is most fortunate to have many college students who come as interns for several months. They work with staff and clients in the office, and they also help with classes and tutoring in the detention centers. We would like to welcome our six Fall 2006 Interns:

**Vanessa Brown-** a graduate student from ICAR at George Mason University.

**Andrea Martin**—a senior at Howard University.

**Alison Taylor-** a graduate student at Argosy University.

**Tiffany Shivers-** an intern with the Year Up Program.

**Raul Vazquez-** a Washington Center Intern with unique qualifications. He is a lawyer in Mexico who is interning with OAR to learn about what we do in order to take this information back to Mexico where they are trying to institute new re-entry support services. He works at OAR four days a week.

**Ursula Ziobro-** a senior at Marymount University.

## WELCOME NEW VOLUNTEERS

OAR has been fortunate to have such talented, dedicated, and committed volunteers. We have a Volunteer Corps of over 300 amazing people with about 35 of them going into the detention facilities on a weekly basis. All of our programs are touched by volunteers in various ways whether it is by facilitating courses, mentoring and tutoring, assisting with the curriculum, assisting with special events, assisting

with training sessions, or in an administrative capacity with day to day tasks, Volunteers are our best asset. It is with great pleasure that we welcome OAR's new volunteers who have joined us hoping to touch the lives of those most in need and dramatically benefit the community. Welcome: Mark C., Erin F., Yves-Renee J., Natalie J., Elizabeth P., Jenna R., Mercedes A., Patricia B., Robert E., Gayle F., Nicole G., Megan G., Ben H., David K., Sheryl

M., Daniela M., Aaron P., Melba R., Alvin T., Amy T., Heather W., Elissa W., Kristen H., Rosalie F., and Sonya R. We would like to Thank You in advance for making a difference, for carrying out OAR's Mission, and for being part of the Transformations!

**“OAR is the place to go to get your questions answered, your needs met, and your confidence lifted”. Alison, Fall 2006 Intern**

## VOLUNTEERS FAREWELLS

Sometimes we must say farewell to Volunteers that have contributed greatly to OAR and our mission. We would like to honor them here and remind them what a difference they have made.

**Pauline Geraci, Nana Gyesie, Jay Iyengar, George Meek, Shona Nazareth, Dan Peters, Michael Ryan, Barbara Spooner, and Maria Williams.** Farewell and Thank you!

### Condolences:

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to a long time OAR Volunteer who recently past. **Alan Dierksen** had been volunteering with OAR at the Arlington County Detention Facility for many years where he proctored exams, tutored and mentored clients, facilitated courses, and worked assisting OAR with our many needs. We send condolences to **Alan's** family and friends and we will always remember his contribution and dedication to OAR, our clients, and our community. He will be missed.

**Join us in Breaking the Cycle of Crime: Volunteer!**

Contact OAR's Volunteer Services Coordinator, **Elizabeth Jones Valderrama**, at [ejones@oaronline.org](mailto:ejones@oaronline.org)

## THANK YOU SPONSORS

OAR would like to thank our kind sponsors for their contributions to restorative justice. We are grateful to all of them for contributing to us over the years.

- Verizon Foundation
- Virginia Law Foundation
- Arlington County

- City of Falls Church
- Alexandria Sheriff's Office
- United Way

Thank You for allowing us to carry out our mission in hopes of assisting offenders in leading productive and responsible lives .

## JOIN US FOR SAGE FLOWERS' GRAND OPENING OCTOBER 29

Volunteers, supporters, staff, Board, and friends of OAR are invited to our annual Fall Mixer and Sage Flowers' Grand Opening, to be held this year at OAR's new flower shop – SAGE FLOWERS.

Come and nibble good food, visit with others in the OAR family and let **Katy, Dahl,** and **Wayne** show you how to arrange flowers. The drop-in event will be held from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 29, at SAGE FLOWERS, located at 7018 Commerce Street in Springfield. The Springfield Metro stop is about a mile away. There is also a shuttle service for those of you who want to come by metro.

Call or email Volunteer Services Coordinator **Elizabeth Jones Valderrama** ([ejones@oaronline.org](mailto:ejones@oaronline.org)) to let us know you are coming and get more information about the shuttle or get a map to the shop. We are looking forward to seeing all of you at

**Sage Flowers**  
**7018 Commerce Street**  
**Springfield, Virginia 22150**  
**703-451-3021**  
**[www.sageflowers.net](http://www.sageflowers.net)**



This is just a preview of what the Sage Flowers' Shop is looking like. Come to Sage Flowers' Grand Opening and Volunteer Fall Mixer and let us amaze you with the finished product.

## YOU AND THE LAW CLASSES TAUGHT AROUND ARLINGTON COUNTY

Almost 50% of OAR's Community Service clients are juveniles who must complete 10 to 100 hours of community service as part of their court sanction. Last year, **Jeremy Rinker**, OAR's Community Service Coordinator, and CSP Case Managers **Clarence Barner**, and **Maria Aponte**, were responsible for placing 498 juveniles in community service work .

Some of these young people are assigned to the *You and the Law* class as part of their required hours. This five-week class held at OAR focuses on helping youth understand the link between their rights and responsibilities, as well as explores and contextualizes the concept of justice in our shared community. Through peer discussion and group interaction, *You and the Law* class participants gain a better understanding of how their behaviors and actions affect the whole community, while building the skills to make informed and constructive future decisions.

OAR staff and volunteers also teach a ten-week version of the class several times a year at Argus House for Boys, a residential treatment house in Arlington run by the juvenile courts. This ten-week class is also offered to the Girl's Outreach Program, a juvenile court-appointed after-school program for teenage girls.

OAR is hoping to reach out in other ways to juveniles in our community in the coming year.

## OAR STAFF

- Gail C. Arnall, Executive Director
- Maria Aponte, CSP Case Manager
- Clarence Barner, CSP Case Manager
- Sue Bell, Grants Manager
- Charlyne Braxton, Receptionist
- Denise Costley, WEC Program Coordinator
- Juanita Deshazior, Alexandria Re-entry Advisor
- Kathy Hollins, Administrative Services Coordinator
- Christian Jones, MASTERS Program Coordinator
- Elizabeth Jones Valderrama, Volunteer Services Coordinator
- Melissa Rea, Director of Education and Training
- Jeremy Rinker, Community Service Coordinator
- Alexis Van Bevers, Arlington Re-entry Advisor
- Will Wilson, Director of Re-entry and Outreach
- Tasheda Wood, Arlington Re-entry Advisor

## OAR BOARD

- Bruce Griffin, Chairman
- Christina Biebesheimer
- Bruce Blackman
- Pamela Bulloch
- Michael Carleton
- Jennifer Christie
- Bill Cleveland
- John Pettiford
- Robert Price
- Elissa Rumsey
- Nancy Swift
- Gail Arnall

Join us in Breaking the Cycle of Crime: Volunteer!

Contact OAR's Volunteer Services Coordinator, **Elizabeth Jones Valderrama**, at [ejones@oaronline.org](mailto:ejones@oaronline.org)



Court Square West  
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**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 Richmond, 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

**Serving the County of Arlington and the Cities of Alexandria and Falls Church since 1974**

**CALENDAR**

**October**

- 11 Ex-Offender Support Group
- 14 Volunteer Training Workshop
- 14 Community Service Program Car Wash
- 29 Sage Flowers' Grand Opening and Volunteer Fall Mixer

**November**

- 8 Ex-Offender Support Group
- 9 Job Fair at the Alexandria Detention Center

**December**

- 9 Volunteer Training Workshop
- 12 Project Christmas Angel Wrapping Party
- 13 Ex-Offender Support Group

For more information about these events and much more please contact us at 703-228-7030



**WHAT DO YOU SEE IN OAR'S NEW LOGO?**

Open arms. Joy. Growth. Relief. Possibilities. A human figure being lifted up. Energy. Praising freedom. Hope. A person reaching into the community. Rebirth. Restoration. Transformation.

**Join us in Breaking the Cycle of Crime: Volunteer!**

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