

TRANSFORMATIONS

From the Executive Director

March is budget time. Last month, three people spoke on behalf of OAR before the Arlington County Board. We reminded the Board of the level of services that OAR provides. And, we asked them for an amendment to the proposed budget to start a Boy's After School program. You can read about our dream of a Boy's Program in this issue of *Transformations!*

Tom Ward's testimony, included in this issue of *Transformations!*, was very moving. Be sure to read it. **Sue Bodner**, a resident of Arlington, supported OAR and all of the Arlington Non-Profits providing social services in the County. OAR Board member **Christina Biebesheimer** included in her testimony some wonderful statistics for the first nine months of this fiscal year:

Since last July 1, 2006, OAR has served **1668** clients. Just in the last nine months, **300** volunteers have contributed **9530** volunteer hours teaching courses, developing curriculum, working in the OAR office and performing other valuable work. (That computes to over **four** full-time positions that have been donated.) We have put **683** Community Service clients to work in Arlington county, contributing **17,289** hours of Community Service, worth over **\$180,000** to the churches and non-profits that benefited from their work. Finally, in just the first two and a half months of 2007, OAR staff helped **81** ex-offenders find employment.

Thanks to each of you who continue to support OAR and its work in Alexandria, Arlington and Falls Church.

Gail C. Arnall,
Executive Director

SHERIFF LAWHORNE APPLAUDS OAR

It has been a little over a year since I was sworn into office as Sheriff for the City of Alexandria and assumed responsibility for the Alexandria Detention Center. As a former police officer, I knew the Detention Center housed people with problems. What I didn't realize was that so many solutions to the problems the inmates faced were contained within the walls of the Detention Center, and that OAR was so instrumental in helping to find those solutions.

During this past year, I have had the privilege of seeing firsthand the benefits of OAR programming. Through the dedicated efforts of its staff and



Through academic and life skills instruction, restorative justice programs, individual and group counseling and vocational skills training, OAR is making a difference in the lives of our inmates.

Thanks to the staff and volunteers of OAR for your selfless work performed each day on behalf of the Alexandria Detention Center. Through your efforts, change comes, and for the better.

Sincerely,
Dana Lawhorne
Sheriff

volunteers, our inmates are introduced to ideas and concepts that can help change both their thinking and their actions.

JOIN US FOR GUEST SPEAKER ON MAY 16TH

OAR is sponsoring a workshop and luncheon with **Christian Moore**, to be held at St. Charles Church, located at 3304 N. Washington Blvd. Arlington, VA 22201.

Christian grew up in the Washington, D.C. area in a family of twelve children. By the second grade, Christian had been diagnosed with Attention Deficit-Hyperactivity Disorder and conduct disorder. Despite overwhelming obstacles, **Christian** rose from special education to receive a master's degree in social work. Today he is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker.

Particularly in the wake of the Virginia Tech tragedy, it seems to us in OAR that the more we can, as a community, come together to think about strategies for helping our youth, the better off all of us will be.

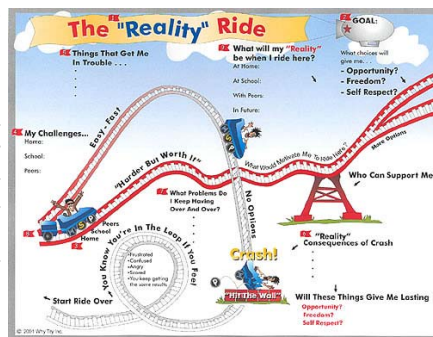
The cost: Workshop only is \$5.00 (10 am to noon); Luncheon is \$20.00.

RSVP by contacting **Charlyne Braxton**, OAR's Secretary, at 703-228-7030 or by email at cbaxton@oaronline.org.

A special thank you to St. Charles Church in Arlington Virginia for graciously donated the space for this

INSIDE

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- VOLUNTEERS FOR SAGE
- BOY'S AFTER SCHOOL
- WOMEN'S SUPPORT GROUP



OAR STAFF

Gail C. Arnall, Executive Director
 Sue Bell, Grants Manager
 Charlyne Braxton, Receptionist
 Denise Costley, WEC Program Coordinator
 Rudy Curtis, Arlington Re-entry Advisor
 Crystal Debuck, Arlington Re-entry Advisor
 Juanita Deshazior, Alexandria Re-entry Advisor
 Kathy Hollins, Administrative Services Coordinator
 Susan Jiofack, CSP Case Manager
 Christian Jones, MASTERS Program Coordinator
 Elizabeth Jones Valderrama, Director of Volunteer and Education Services
 Rachel Sparico, CSP Case Manager
 Will Wilson, Director of Re-entry and Outreach

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

SPRING INTERNS

Chauncia Jones
 Jessica Pennington
 Jessica Rinehart
 Rachel Sparico

NEW STAFF JOIN OAR

Rudy Curtis joined the OAR staff in April as



our new Re-entry Advisor, in the Re-entry and Outreach Unit. Rudy brings a wealth of

experience in business and the military to his new responsibilities. He has worked with a government contracting firm, in the Medical Center of the Veterans Affairs Department, and in sales with a local entertainment company. We are pleased that a person with his work experience will be available to clients who are re-entering our community.

Crystal DeBuck began her relationship



with OAR as an intern at the Alexandria Detention Center. She quickly became intrigued by her experiences and wanted to further pursue case management. She joined the team as a transition

advisor for Reentry & Outreach in January 2007. Crystal will be graduating in August 2007 from Marymount University with her Masters in Forensic Psychology.

Susan Jiofack also joined the OAR staff in



April as a Community Service Advisor. She comes to us having finished her law degree, and with

several years experience working in juvenile residential programs in Virginia, Delaware, Washington, D.C. and Maryland. We are especially pleased to have someone of her experience help us with our revamping of the juvenile Community Service Program. She will also be a great benefit as we plan to implement a Boy's Day Reporting Center.

Rachel Sparico began her relationship

with OAR as an intern in spring



2007. She joined the team as a Community Service Case Manager May 1st. Rachel recently graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a B.S. in psychology, and is currently pursuing her

Masters Degree. We are fortunate to have someone come to us who has already worked with us and our clients.

NEW WOMEN'S SUPPORT GROUP

DESIGNED TO SUPPORT FAMILY MEMBERS

On Saturday, May 12, at St. Charles Catholic Church in Arlington, OAR will begin a new program to support the wives and partners of clients who are incarcerated.

"We know that the family members of those incarcerated are significantly affected by having a love-one incarcerated," said **Gail Arnall**, Executive Director of OAR. "This is our first step to help families through this period in their lives."

OAR is fortunate to have a volunteer with professional training in working with groups, and with personal knowledge of what the wives and partners of men incarcerated are going through. Initially this women's group will be limited to the wives, significant others and partners of individuals incarcerated. We may at a later time expand the group or start a second group for other family members.

The group will meet on the second Saturday of every month, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. at St. Charles, located at 3304 N. Washington Boulevard in Arlington. It is very near the Clarendon Metro stop on the Orange Line. For more information and more detailed directions, please call **Gail** at 703-228-7437.

Child care for children ten and under will be provided.

Join us in Breaking the Cycle of Crime: Volunteer!

Contact OAR's Director of Volunteer and Education Services, Elizabeth Jones Valderrama, at ejones@oaronline.org

NEWS FROM THE INSIDE

Alexandria Detention Center

Four new courses are being this spring: **Impact of Crime** will once again be taught by **Katherine Lewis** in the MASTERS unit. This class is literally “back by demand.” The participants in the class last summer found the class very helpful, and **Ms. Lewis** especially effective. **ServSafe** will again be offered for men and women wanting a certificate to work in the food industry. We are especially pleased that **Heather Greenwood** will be teaching this very demanding class in April. Through a generous grant from the Shrewsbury Foundation, we started a **Parenting** class designed specifically for women in the WEC unit. This class will be offered multiple times through the year. Most of the women in WEC have children at home. Through a generous gift from the Virginia Law Foundation, we are offering a course in **Floral Retailing**, first for the women in WEC and then for the men in MASTERS. This initial class will enable individuals to explore the possibility of working in the flower industry. We are hoping to have an apprenticeship program at SAGE FLOWERS ready in the fall. **Customer Service** is a new class that will begin in late spring. This class will help prepare our clients for work when they are released. We are working with the Arlington Employment Center and dedicated volunteers **Amanda Crane**, **Lisa Ellin**, **Melba Reed**, and **Nancy Swift** to develop the curriculum.

Arlington County Detention Facility

A new course has been added to the schedule this spring in Arlington. **Small Business Basics** is an outgrowth of a course offered over the winter. So many wanted a course that was specifically designed to help them understand the basics of starting and running a small business, that OAR has revamped the curriculum to meet this interest. The course is being co-taught by OAR Executive Director, **Gail Arnall** and **Emmanuel Mpfayokurera**, Training Manager of the Ethiopian Community Enterprising Development Group (ECDC).

In the first eight months of this fiscal year, OAR staff and volunteers have provided over 1300 hours of instruction, just in the Arlington facility alone.

ALEXANDRIA'S PUBLIC DEFENDER TRAINED OAR VOLUNTEERS

Did you know that when something is stolen and the value of the item is more than \$200 it's considered Grand Theft? Would you choose a trial by Judge or by Jury? In Virginia, a Jury has sentencing power and must follow strict guidelines.

A Jury can not give alternative sentencing options like community service, Victim-and Offender-Dialogue, and reduced sentences like a Judge can. OAR Volunteers learned about this and many other interesting facts on



Saturday, April 14th, in the Roll Call Room at the Arlington County Detention Center when they attended a training on the Criminal Justice System. This session was part of the OAR Volunteer Training Workshops which are held every even month.

Alexandria's Public Defender, **Melinda Douglas**, provided an excellent training. She has been the Public Defender for Arlington since July, 1987, when she established the Alexandria Public Defender Office. She has been engaged in criminal defense practice, civil and criminal, over the past 25 years.

Ms. Douglas currently serves on a committee created by the Virginia Indigent Commission to create standards of practice for attorney representing indigent clients. She has served on task forces convened by the Virginia Supreme Court to study criminal justice issues, such as jury reform, protective orders, and intervention programs in domestic violence cases. We are most fortunate that **Ms. Douglas** provided this training.

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 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 to assist in these areas and locations:

- Computer Lab Monitors
- Computer Tutors
- Spanish Life Skills
- Stress Management- Arlington
- Literacy- Alexandria & OAR office
- GED Tutors - Arlington
- Sage Flowers- Helpers
- Customer Service- Alexandria

OAR'S WISH LIST

- Yarn
- Educational Videos
- Financial contributions for Project Christmas Angel
- Holiday Wrapping Paper for Project Christmas Angel
- School Supplies
- Financial Contributions for any OAR Department

EXXON MOBILE GRANT FOR SUMMER INTERN



For the second year in a row, OAR has been given a \$2,000 EXXON Mobile Grant through Volunteer Fairfax to support a Summer Intern who will be working with our Director of Volunteer and Education Services. This special grant makes it possible for OAR to provide a small stipend for a summer intern. Last

year's intern came to us from California and made a wonderful contribution over the 8 weeks she was with us.

The intern must be an undergraduate student enrolled full time for both Spring 2007 and Fall 2007. OAR has interviewed several very qualified candidates and is pleased to announce that we have hired **Merideth Newman** originally from Reston Virginia. **Merideth** will be starting in June 2007. There will be more to come on **Merideth** and all our Summer 2007 Interns in the next edition.

OAR RECEIVES AWARD

Virginia's Children of Promise Mentoring Program presented OAR with a Program Partner Award at its annual dinner in January. The Award was presented "for distinguished recognition in demonstrating a true collaborative partnership to benefit children and families in our community."



This Virginia Mentoring Program, formerly called the United Methodist Family Services Mentoring Program, continues to provide mentors to children of incarcerated parents. If you know of a child that would like to have a mentor, please be in touch with **Elizabeth Jones Valderrama**, ejones@oaronline.org.

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE CONFERENCE CO-SPONSORED BY OAR

In partnership with the Alexandria League of Women Voters, and Social Action Council of UUCA, OAR Co-Sponsored a Community Forum on Restorative Justice.

Many jurisdictions in Virginia are working to address crime in ways that produce more effective results for victims, the community, and offenders, by implementing the principles, values, and practices of restorative justice.

Phyllis Lawrence did a magnificent job organizing the event. **Phyllis** has worked in the field of Restorative Justice for many years, and was very instrumental in helping the Prince William Court system set up a very progressive restorative justice protocol. Over 40 community leaders and concerned citizens spent Saturday morning, March 31, learning about restorative justice - what is it, does it work, and who in

Northern Virginia is using the approach. If you would like more information about restorative justice, please be in touch with **Phyllis Lawrence** directly, at phyllislaw@comcast.net

OAR DREAMS OF AN AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM FOR BOYS

OAR staff has begun to dream about starting an OAR Boys' Day Reporting Center to serve court-involved males between the ages of 13 and 17 who would benefit from an intensive structured day treatment program, but who do not require placement in a residential program. The goal of such a program is to prevent youth from further involvement in the juvenile justice system and prevent detention out of the home. The program would run from after school until 8 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 9 to 12 noon on Saturdays.

Currently, OAR's Community Service Program serves as an alternative sentencing option used by the Arlington Circuit, General District and Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court. OAR works with the courts to match youth and adult offenders with local nonprofit organizations where they perform their service hours. In FY 2006, OAR's Community Service Program served 359 youth offenders who provided 9,849 hours of service (representing a financial value of \$98,982).

There are two gender-specific programs available for girls: Aurora House Girls' Group Home operated by the City of Falls Church and the Girls' Outreach (after-school) Program in Arlington. Male adolescents are served through the Argus House Boys' Group Home, a residential program.

Two other programs that provide for some form of intensive non-residential supervision exist in Arlington. Each of them provides a slightly different array of services geared toward slightly different needs. However, there is no on-site, therapeutic, longer-term program, such as a Boys' Day Reporting Center, in Arlington County, despite the fact that the 70% of the youth on probationers are males.

In FY06, there were 243 new juveniles placed on probation, with an average number of 340 juvenile under probation at any given time during the year. Of these, 70% were boys.

Both OAR staff and parents of the youth offenders who have been assigned Community Service have expressed concern that many youth are not getting what they need from the program. Those youth who violate their sentence (do not complete their required hours) are often re-sentenced and eventually end up with harsher sentences that can include detention. In FY06, 5% of youth violated their Community Service sentence. Together, with many parents and County officials, OAR staff believes that a more structured and more demanding program for boys is critical.

Funding is the issue. OAR will be asking the Arlington County Board to amend the proposed FY08 budget to include an extra \$115,000 to start the Boy's Program mid year in FY08. OAR has pledge to raise the additional funds that will be needed. Please be in touch with OAR Executive Director **Gail Arnall** if you would like to help make this Boy's Program a reality.

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OAD CONSIDERS EX-OFFENDERS CLIENTS

Tom Ward's Testimony before Arlington County Board



I'm one of your Douglas Park neighbors and a nine year resident of Arlington. I have a personal testimony to share in support of the Arlington County Board's partnership with Offender Aid and Restoration.

Eleven years ago my daughter, age 16, was sent to prison for 20 years. I'm not here to elaborate on the details of our tragedy - rather, let me turn the spotlight on the

fact that when my daughter is released from prison within the next two years, she will parole to Arlington County. She's completed her GED and many training programs. The warden chose her to design and present prison orientation to newly arriving women (approx 80 per week) and also to the newest guards.

My daughter is prepared to use her experiences and training to help other ex-offenders once she re-joins the free world. And she, too, will have to deal with the fact that she is an ex-offender.

I have met with **Gail Arnall** and her staff and I know I have met with **Gail Arnall** and her staff and I know OAR stands ready to help my daughter find a meaningful job and re-build her life. OAR will accompany us on this journey and I am grateful OAR exists

Most parents of Arlington County teenagers will not face what our family faced. I've been in court, jail, and in prison on behalf of my daughter for the past eleven years. Arlington County's families with loved ones in our detention center and in prisons need OAR as a BRIDGE to assist offenders in attaining full participation in Arlington County. Within OAR, ex-offenders are considered CLIENTS.

OAR has identified the need to establish a Boy's Day Reporting Center. Our county desperately needs such a program and OAR's willingness to sponsor it along with the task of raising additional funds beyond what the County provides demonstrates the partnership between Arlington County and OAR to the benefit of our citizens, including our ex-offenders, my daughter, and our community. I'd like to thank you for supporting OAR and challenge you to search for the additional funds to help OAR start this important program in FY08.

Thank you for listening.

SAGE FLOWERS FILLED 600+ VALENTINE ORDERS

COME VOLUNTEER FOR MOTHER'S DAY

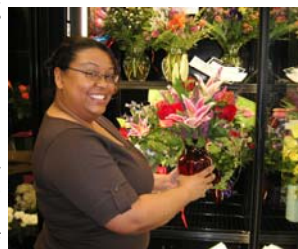


Despite the four days of snow, ice and wind, Sage Flower staff and lots of volunteers made it possible for over 600 individuals to receive their Valentine flowers in February.

"It was an amazing week," said **Katy Steinbruck**, Manager of SAGE FLOWERS. "We had received word from the wire services to expect over 400 orders, and we were prepared for that. But the orders just kept coming in," she said.

The landlord for Sage Flowers made the empty retail space next to the shop available for a week. That 1500 square feet space was the "staging area" for making and sending out the arrangements. Churches in the area loaned the shop church tables.

"Without these contributions, there is no way we would have been able to fill the orders," **Steinbruck** said. "The fact that we had at least ten volunteers every day for five days was essential too. OAR has such a great group of



volunteers who showed up and brought their friends to help."

"There was such a wonderful spirit in the place," said **Barbara Stone**, a floral designer who volunteered to help. "I think the fact that this shop is in business to help support a non-profit cause like OAR made it a special place to work. I am so im-

pressed with the idea that this shop is supporting men and women who are rebuilding their lives," she said.

"I loved every minute of it," said **Dixcy-Bosley Smith**, another volunteer. "The flowers were so beautiful and everyone was pulling together to make the holiday special."

Thanks to all of the volunteers who came out to help. If you want to come and help for Mother's Day, please call the shop at 703-451-0321.



OAD AND ARLINGTON ADULT ED OFFER FREE GED CLASSES

Through a wonderful partnership with the Arlington Adult Education Center, OAR and the Center is offering a free GED or Pre-GED course to ex-offenders in the community.

"We know that inmates in the detention centers start working on their GEDs but often will get out before completing their course work and taking the GED test," said **Elizabeth Jones Valderrama**, OAR's Director

of Volunteer and Education Services. "We are providing a way to keep the momentum up once they return to their community, because we know, and they know, that to get a good job, they need their GEDs." The 9-week course began April 19th. Students must come in before time to take the TABE placement test. Please spread the word that anyone interested should call the OAR Office at 703-228-7030 to enroll for the September 2007 course.

Join us in Breaking the Cycle of Crime: Volunteer!

Contact OAR's Director of Volunteer and Education Services, Elizabeth Jones Valderrama, at ejones@oaronline.org

OAR Offender Aid and Restoration

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

Don't Forget: We are still taking items to sell on E-Bay. Call us so that we can arrange your tax deductible contribution!

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. 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

Want to read more? Visit the OAR website at www.OARonline.org and go to the Newsletters page.

Click on *Transformations*: April to June 2007 for the entire issue.

CALENDAR

May

7th to 13th Sage Flowers Mother's Day preparation~ Volunteers needed

16th Workshop and Luncheon with Christian Moore

June

9th Volunteer Training Workshop Series

26th OAR Board Meeting- New officers sworn in

If you would like to be considered for Board membership, please contact Gail Arnall, Executive Director, OAR at [www.garnall@oaronline.org](mailto:garnall@oaronline.org).

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

THANK YOU SUPPORTERS

OAR is especially grateful for the financial support for our work in restorative justice. Thank You for helping us carry out our mission!

- Arlington Inter-Faith Council
- Arlington Kiwanis Club
- Gannett Foundation
- Eugene and Agnes E. Meyer Foundation
- Shrewsbury Foundation
- Verizon Foundation
- Virginia Law Foundation
- Weissberg Foundation
- Alexandria and Arlington Sheriff's Offices
- United Way Community Impact Fund
- Arlington County
- City of Falls Church

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

Join us in Breaking the Cycle of Crime: Volunteer!

Contact OAR's Director of Volunteer and Education Services, [Elizabeth Jones Valderrama](mailto:Elizabth Jones Valderrama), at ejones@oaronline.org