

# TRANSFORMATIONS

## A YEAR IN REVIEW

### ANNUAL REPORT JULY 1, 2006 TO JUNE 31, 2007

In this issue of **Transformations!** you will find the highlights of the FY07 fiscal year. This past year has been a wonderful, productive year by all measurements. My thanks to all of our volunteers, our exceptional Board of Directors, the many funders who support us, and a terrific OAR staff. Together we have made a difference in the lives of many. Here are some highlights of the work accomplished:

- Served a total of 2209 individual clients.
- Provided classes inside the Arlington County and Alexandria Detention Centers for 700 individuals, many of whom came to the OAR office for re-entry services when they were released.
- Helped over 150 (almost all felons) find employment.
- Provided almost 2,000 toys to the children of about 500 inmates that were in the two detention centers over the Christmas Holidays.
- Opened SAGE FLOWERS, a wholly-owned subsidiary of OAR.
- Held by-monthly Saturday training seminars for volunteers and interns.
- Hired new Director of Reentry and Outreach, along with four new case managers.
- Held a four-hour training for over 70 individuals who work with at-risk young people in

Northern Virginia based on the Why Try? curriculum.

- Received a grant from the US Department of Labor for our Faith-Based Initiative.
- Formed the "Get Smart" ex-offenders group to provide speakers to young people around Northern Virginia.
- Provided pre-GED classes for OAR clients, in partnership with the Arlington Public Schools Adult Education Office.
- Secured a Spanish-language curriculum (and extensive training) from the Mexican Government, which covers the equivalent of pre-GED through two years of college - to be used in classes inside and outside of the detention centers.
- Developed and delivered several new courses inside the detention centers including Small Business Basics; Floral Retailing; Substance Abuse Education; and Employment Information.
- Enlisted three new Board members.
- Published quarterly newsletters, *Transformations!*



**OAR Staff 2007:** From left to right: (1st row) Christian Jones, Kathy Hollins, (2nd row) Gail Arnall, Elizabeth Jones Valderama, Denise Costley, Crystal DeBuck, Rachel Sparico, (3rd row) Odalis Jimenez, Will Wilson, Rudy Curtis, Juanita DeShazor, & Susan Jiofack

- Secured funding from seven foundations that have never given to OAR in the past: Meyers Foundation, Cafritz Foundation, Gannet Foundation, Philip Graham Fund, Shrewsbury Foundation, Weissberg Foundation, and the Arlington Community Development Block Grant.

**A Word from one of our Clients that sums up the year!**

"In the near future I can see even more opportunities developing through OAR,

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## CHRISTIAN MOORE RETURNS IN OCTOBER

Christian Moore, a nationally-known trainer of teachers and other professionals working with at-risk children, will provide his **Why Try?** two-day certified training during the week of October 15, 2007. There is no charge for the training; all are welcome. Over 70 people attended his half-day seminar last May and all asked us to bring Christian back for the two-day training.

Christian has developed a new approach to help kids take ownership of their lives and begin to develop Emotional Intelligence. The training is designed for adults who work with juveniles in all venues. Additional information can be found on the Why Try? website at

[www.WhyTry.org](http://www.WhyTry.org). You can see the PowerPoint presentation and listen to the music.

We are offering two training dates: Monday-Tuesday, October 15-16; and Wednesday-Thursday, October 17-18. Registration is required. The training will be at the Arlington Parks and National Resources Conference Center off Three Mile Run near Shirlington. We have a total of 400 seats available.

Go to the OAR website at [www.OARonline.org](http://www.OARonline.org) for more information and instructions for registering. Please help us spread the word about this wonderful training.

## SAGE FLOWERS

With over \$270,000 earned in our first year, Sage Flowers, OAR's First Subsidiary, has surpassed our goals. But we still need your help to make a profit. Place your order today and support OAR's work. Call 703-451-3021 or visit our website at [www.SageFlowers.net](http://www.SageFlowers.net)



**SAGE flowers**  
wisdom grows.

**OAR STAFF**

Gail C. Arnall, Executive Director  
 Sue Bell, Grants Manager  
 Denise Costley, Women Empowered for Change Program Coordinator  
 Rudy Curtis, Re-entry Advisor  
 Crystal DeBuck, Re-entry Advisor  
 Juanita DeShazor, Re-entry advisor  
 Kathy Hollins, Administrative Coordinator  
 Odalis Jimenez, Administrative Assist.  
 Susan Jiofack, CSP Case Manager  
 Christian Jones, MASTERS Men's Educational Unit Coordinator  
 Elizabeth Jones Valderrama, Dir. of Volunteer and Education Services  
 Rachel Sparico, CSP Case Manager  
 Will Wilson, Director of Re-entry and Outreach

**OAR BOARD**

Bruce Griffin, Chairman  
 Kayra Alhambra  
 Christina Beibesheimer  
 Bruce Blackman  
 Pamela Bulloch  
 Michael Carleton  
 Jennifer Christie  
 Bill Cleveland  
 John Pettiford  
 Robert Price  
 Elissa Rumsey  
 Nancy Swift  
 Tom Ward  
 Gail Arnall

**“GET SMART” CLUB AT OAR SPEAKS OUT AGAINST CRIME**

This past spring, the OAR Re-entry Staff invited several clients to help form a “GET SMART” club at OAR. The purpose of the club is to prepare previously incarcerated individuals to speak to young people about their experiences, impressing upon these children that crime really does not pay.

Sixteen men and two women responded. The group has met almost every Friday afternoon for the last three months. They have developed a training regiment for themselves, modeled in part on the principles embodied in Toastmasters Clubs of America.

In July, several GET SMART members spoke to the girls and staff in the Girl's Outreach Program of Arlington. The result of just that one appearance was so rewarding. One of the teenager girls that heard the presentation had not spoken to her father for several years. Following the GET SMART presentation, she sat down and wrote him a letter.

The members of the club work at least in pairs, often with an OAR Staff member present. If you would like to have speakers from GET SMART speak to a youth group in Northern Virginia, please call Mr. Wilson at OAR (703) 228-7030.

**A YEAR IN REVIEW**

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as long as I continue to be willing to listen to the staff and apply valuable information that is provided to me. I encourage others to do the same and while doing so to keep your 'Head Up' and don't give up. The OAR staff will not quit, as long as you try!"

Thanks to all of you for your continued support

Gail Arnall, Executive Director



**OAR Board 2007:** From left to right: (1st row) Tom Ward, Pamela Bulloch, Michael Carleton, Jennifer Christie, (2nd row) Bill Cleveland, Robert Price, (3rd row) Nancy Swift, Gail Arnall, Bruce Griffin, Christina Beibesheimer, Kayra Alhambra, & John Pettiford

**FY 07 REVENUE AND EXPENSES**

Audit in progress	
<b>Revenue</b>	
Government Grants/Contracts/Foundations	\$833,883
Churches/Civic	\$9,832
Individual contributions	\$15,836
Client Fees	\$23,355
Investment Income	<u>\$204</u>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$883,110</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Program Services	
Jail Based	\$256,891
Community Service	\$171,260
Re-entry	\$342,521
Management & General	<u>\$146,795</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$917,469</b>

**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](mailto:ejones@oaronline.org)

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR FY 07 PROVIDED BY A GROWING NUMBER OF FUNDERS

Two years ago, OAR had financial support from local and state governments, United Way and one foundation. In FY07, we were able to secure funding from **nine** additional, new funding sources, several of which will help fund programs for FY08. We are so thankful to the following funders who support the work of OAR:

- Alexandria Sheriff's Office
- Arlington Community Development
- Block Grant
- Arlington County
- Arlington Sheriff's Office
- Cafritz Foundation
- City of Falls Church
- Gannett Foundation
- Meyer Foundation
- Philip L. Graham Fund
- Shrewsbury Foundation
- U.S. Department of Labor
- United Way Community Impact Fund
- Verizon Foundation
- Virginia Law Foundation
- Virginia State Department of Criminal Justice Services
- Weissberg Foundation

## VOLUNTEERS CONTRIBUTE 17,000 HOURS

OAR's volunteers provide a variety of services to offenders in the Arlington County and Alexandria Detention Centers, including:

- Facilitating women's, men's, and Hispanic support groups
- Teaching Life Skills Classes, such as Anger Management, Money Management, Stress Management, Health Awareness, Creative Writing, Conflict Resolution, Self Awareness through Cinema, and Leadership Skills
- Tutoring in GED, ESL, basic Literacy in English and Spanish and writing skills
- Teaching computer skills
- Arranging for guest speakers to address program participants
- Leading Book Clubs, Meditation sessions,
- Providing other classes and services
- Serving as liaisons with employers, places of worship and others for funding and services
- Tutoring in GED, basic computer skills and Literacy
- Recruiting new volunteers

In the community, volunteer activities include:

- Serving on the Board of Directors
- Training volunteers and staff
- Developing program proposals and curricula
- Translating documents into other languages

Volunteers entering the detention centers complete over 20-hours of required training throughout the year. OAR Volunteers have not only contributed over 17000 hours this year alone, but have enriched the lives of so many clients. We want to thank each and every one of you for Helping to Break the Cycle of Crime!

## OAR BEGINS FAITH-BASED INITIATIVE

OAR has received grant funds to support a new Faith-Based Initiative to provide additional support for those returning to our community from local detention centers and prisons. Our thanks to: The Arlington Community Development Fund, the Philip L. Graham Fund, and the U.S. Department of Labor for the financial support to make this new program possible.

Our new Faith-based Community Outreach Initiative will focus on educating and engaging the faith communities of Alexandria, Arlington and Falls Church in support of OAR's work with offenders. There are two main components:

- to encourage monthly and annual financial support of OAR activities;
- to recruit and train at least three team members from five faith-based organizations to serve as Life Coaches for previously incarcerated adults.

OAR has hired Philip Paradine as the project coordinator for this new initiative. Philip is

an ordained Episcopal minister who currently works with students at the Episcopal Seminary in Alexandria who are involved in ministry at the Alexandria Detention Facility. He has been involved in prison ministry for several years and has a long-term interest and experience in working with incarcerated and recently released men and women.



Philip will build upon the solid reputation that OAR has in providing services to offenders and the communities into which

they are released. There is an extensive network of OAR volunteers from the community already offering their skills and commitment, and OAR already receives donations from a number of faith-based organizations in Northern Virginia. The strong network of faith leader associations that exists in Alexandria, Arlington and Falls Church will be critical in identifying potential partners for this new initiative.

Philip would like to make presentations to as many faith-based communities and groups as possible. Please contact him directly by calling 703-660-1636 or by email at [pjparadine@juno.com](mailto:pjparadine@juno.com) to arrange a time for him to come explain the program and how your church, synagogue or mosque can be involved.

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

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

# **OAR** Offender Aid and Restoration

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

Court Square West

1400 North Uhle Street Suite 704  
Arlington, Virginia 22201

Phone: 703-228-7030

Fax: 703-228-3981

E-mail: [info@oaronline.org](mailto:info@oaronline.org)

Donate through  
United Way  
OAR's  
CFC # is 8078

## **OAR MISION**

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

## **VOLUNTEER NEEDS**

- Computer Lab Monitors
- Spanish Life Skills Instructors
- Stress Management Instructors
- Expressive Arts Instructors
- Critical Skills Instructors
- Volunteer Library Administrator
- Literacy/ GED/ ESL Tutors
- Anger Management Facilitators
- Sage Flowers Volunteers
- Customer Service Instructors
- OAR Newsletter Editor
- Project Xmas Angel Coordinator

## **OAR'S WISH LIST**

- Yarn for WEC Baby Blankets
- Educational Videos & Materials
- Holiday Wrapping Paper
- \$10-\$20 Holiday Gift Cards
- Resume paper
- \$5 Metro Cards & Bus passes
- Small or Medium Shredder
- School Supplies: pencils, manila & pocket folders, composition & 1 subject notebooks, color pencils
- Standard Xerox Copy Paper
- \$5 Fast Food Restaurant Cards
- Thursday night Home Cooked Meals for GED students

## **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.

We are still taking items to sell on E-Bay. Call us so that we can arrange your tax deductible contribution!

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](mailto:ejones@oaronline.org)