

TRANSFORMATIONS

From the Executive Director

Springtime ended in a fabulous crescendo. June was a banner month!

During the spring, 157 people attended one of our OAR Tours to learn about our programs and to listen to clients tell their stories. This special effort to reach out to the three communities we serve (Arlington County and the cities of Alexandria and Falls Church) culminated in our first-ever Second Chance fundraising breakfast on June 11th.

The OAR staff was especially encouraged to see so many community members, volunteers and long time supporters come and support the work that they do, day in and day out. One OAR Case Manager remarked: "You know, sometimes we finish the day and we are not sure that we are making a difference. To hear clients and folks from the community say we are doing a good job means a lot."

Just prior to the breakfast we were notified that the **Meyer Foundation** would be giving us another grant of \$20,000 to support our work. We know how difficult it is for foundations these days to make decisions of which programs to fund, so we are especially honored by this grant award.

Then, five days after the breakfast we were again honored when we received the Spirit of Service Award at the annual **Greater DC Cares** Business and Non-profit Philanthropic Summit. Our thanks go to **Deloitte LLP** who presented us with the \$10,000 award. Although we were honored to be one of three finalists for this recognition, we were truly honored to be the single non-profit in the Washington metro area to be given the top award.

We are indebted to over 85 trained and highly capable volunteers who work with us on a weekly basis, plus many more that help with special projects throughout the year. OAR truly is a community-based organization.

I hope to see you at the next Tour!

Gail C. Arnall

OAR CELEBRATES BREAKFAST SUCCESS

Over 175 friends and supporters of OAR came together for OAR's first Second Chance Free Fundraising Breakfast, held on June 11th. Of those, 67 people were able to contribute a total of over \$40,000, some of which was committed each year for up to five years.

In a short video, client **Barbara** expressed the feeling that many clients have when she explained: "Look what they do for convicted felons. They look way past that. They go above and beyond what somebody should do. I mean, if OAR wasn't here, where would the convicted felons be, back in jail? Causing the taxpayer to have to pay for their room and board? It would be just a vicious circle. But OAR breaks that circle."

Kevin, a client, said: "All I can do is say 'thank you' to OAR for all they have given me since I came out of a 13-year stay in prison last year."

Tracy, another client, told the assembled group that prior to being locked up in the Alexandria Detention Center, she was a middle class, typical soccer



Citizens from all walks of life heard from clients at the OAR Second Chance Breakfast

mom. Then, when her friend and boss accused her of embezzlement, she did not have the money to fight the accusation and so took a plea agreement. That agreement required her to serve six months in jail and be on probation for 13 years.

"I had no idea when I took the plea what it would mean to be a felon for the rest of my life, but, you know, while I would not have chosen to go to jail, I did learn a lot about myself, and I came to know good, strong women from all walks of life that I would never have met otherwise. OAR

provided a program that helped women in that facility develop skills and self-confidence to go back into the world and succeed."

OAR will continue to hold monthly, one-hour tours for community members to come learn about the work we do with and for offenders, ex-offenders and their families.

Please take a look at the OAR Tour dates on page 3 and contact **Elizabeth** to sign up. ejones@oaronline.org (703)-228-7441.

OAR RECEIVES

\$10,000 SPIRIT OF SERVICE AWARD

OAR received the \$10,000 Spirit of Service Grant at the 2009 Greater DC Cares Business and Non-Profit Philanthropy Summit June 16, 2009 luncheon, co-sponsored by the **Washington Post Media**.

The award was presented by **Deloitte LLP** to a single non-profit in the Washington Metro area in recognition of the use the organization makes of volunteers to impact the community.

"This \$10,000 grant is being awarded to strengthen the capacity of a nonprofit organization that is significantly impacting their community and will be utilized to advance volunteerism and service for greater community impact," stated **Vincent Ferraro**, **Deloitte** Managing Partner, Greater Washington. "We are proud to recognize OAR for their contribution to our community."

About 700 business and non-profit leaders from around the Washington area attended the luncheon in which **First Lady Michelle Obama** renewed the Administration's call for increased community service across the country.

Dr. Madye Henson, President and CEO of **Greater DC Cares**, stated: "This year, there were several qualified organizations

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OAR STAFF

- Gail C. Arnall, Executive Director
- Erica Bishop, Re-entry Advisor
- Jessica Clay, Community Service Case Manager
- Richard Eldridge, Assistant Director of Volunteer and Education Services
- Kathy Hollins, Director of Administrative Services
- Elizabeth Jones Valderrama, Director of Development and Special Projects
- James Powell, Administrative Assistant
- Jenna Ryckebusch, Coordinator of Community Service
- Rachel Sparico, Director of Volunteer and Education Services
- Katy Steinbruck, Reentry Advisor
- Nicholas Tar, Re-entry Advisor
- Will Wilson, Director of Re-entry and Outreach

OAR BOARD

- John Pettiford, Chairman
- Kayra Alhambra
- Tanya Beauchamp
- Christina Beibesheimer
- Bruce Blackman
- Pamela Bulloch
- Michael Carleton
- Heather Knight
- Mondre' Kornegay
- Robert Price
- Elissa Rumsey
- Jordan Segue
- Nancy Swift
- Tom Ward
- Gail Arnall

SPIRIT OF SERVICE AWARD

Continued from on page 1

nominated that truly have strengthened and served the region through their exceptional service and philanthropy. What set the finalists apart from other organizations was the positive impact that they had on the region and their own internal organizations."

"What an awesome accomplishment and recognition of the great work OAR does for offenders and the Arlington community," said Arlington Sheriff Beth Arthur. "The outstanding contributions of OAR staff and volunteers will continue to bring about a difference in the future."

In receiving the award, **Gail Arnall**, OAR Executive Director, thanked **Deloitte** and asked the audience to remember that each year, over 600,000 men and women come home from prison. They will all need a place to live and a job.

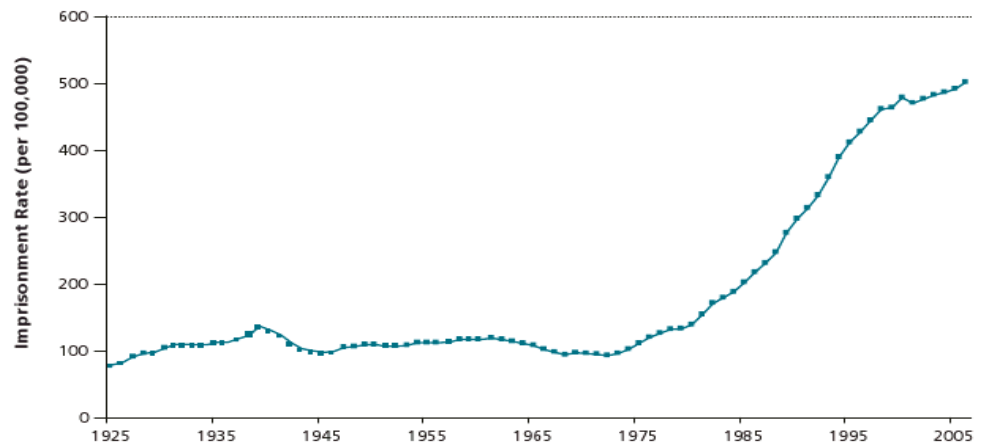
For more information visit the OAR website at www.oaronline.org.

For a complete list of finalists visit <http://www.dc-cares.org/finalists.html>.

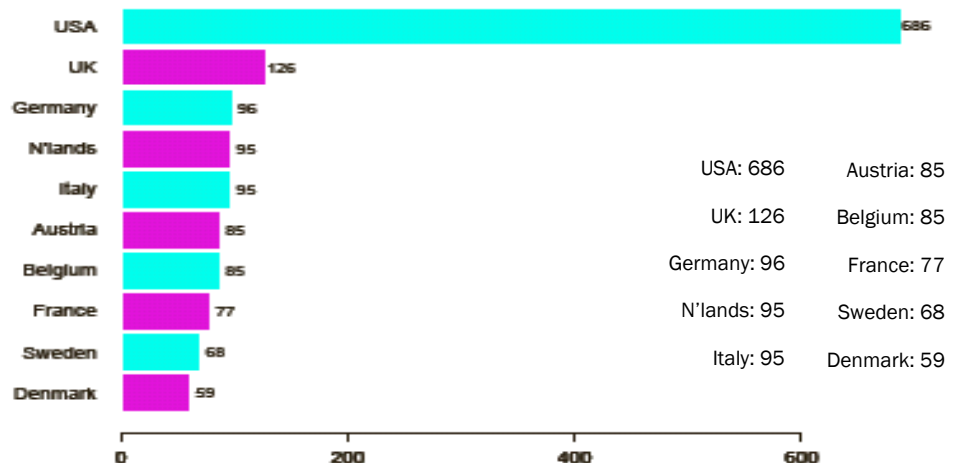
ALARMING TRENDS

These graphs illustrate alarming trends within the U.S. correctional system.

**IMPRISONMENT RATES, 1925-2005
(PER 100,000 OF U.S. POPULATION)**



**INCARCERATION IN WESTERN EUROPE AND THE U.S., 2001
(PER 100,000)**



Join us in Breaking the Cycle of Crime: Volunteer!

Contact OAR's Director of Volunteer and Education Services, **Rachel Sparico**, at rsparico@oaronline.org

TWO WOMEN MEET AT OAR

By **Rachel Sparico**, OAR

Two women from very different backgrounds have discovered one another at OAR this summer. **Christina Muniz** is working on a degree in Social Work at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and is a summer intern at OAR. The second woman, **Sue Brown**, age 40, was kicked out of school in the 10th grade and has been in and out of jail for several years.

As part of her internship, **Christina** has participated as a tutor in the OAR Education program – and **Sue** became one of her students. When **Sue** heard about OAR’s Education Program, and discovered that there is no fee for clients, she signed up immediately. **Sue** realizes education is very important to ensure stable employment.

Christina is excited about using the **EdOptions** online educational software designed specifically to help students prepare to pass the GED exam.

“Making this software available for this population is terrific, because clients have the opportunity to use a program that typically requires a high fee to use,” **Christina** states.

The Education Program through OAR is free to clients who qualify. **Sue** echoes **Christina**’s comments about costs: “I think it’s an excellent program for those of us who do not have the funds to afford the high cost of education and classes.” She has been attending tutoring sessions three days a week.

Christina reports that as **Sue** progresses through the readings, she will sometimes struggle with a particular word and need help understanding the concepts. **Christina** defines the word and discusses with **Sue** the meaning of the word and the context. **Christina** states: “It is not just a reading lesson, it is living life and understanding that this

woman can read something she had little or no knowledge about and retain the meaning.”

“The idea of helping people who do not have the best reputation or good life skills, but still need help with the resources necessary to succeed, is both a challenge and a reward,” says **Christina**.

“OAR has the opportunity to witness the rewards daily,” said **Rachel Sparico**, OAR Director of Volunteer and Education Services. “We track the number of clients who attend the program and the progress of each client. And, we celebrate when an individual completes an assignment. What we know is that when we invest in our clients and their education, we are truly making an impact on the reducing recidivism.”

How does Restorative Justice affect you and your family?

Join us for a one-hour tour

OAR blends compassion and accountability to help offenders return home to become productive citizens and reunited with families, making our community stronger and safer.

Where: The OAR Office is located at 1400 North Uhle Street, Suite 704, Arlington, VA 22201. The office is across from the Arlington County Court House and the Court House Metro Station.

When:

- July 29th at 6:30pm Oct. 22nd at 8am
- Aug. 11th at 8:00am Oct. 28th at 6:30pm
- Aug. 26th at 6:30pm Nov. 16th at 6:30pm
- Sept. 16th at 8am Dec. 8th at 8am
- Sept. 30th at 6:30pm

We promise to start on time and finish in one-hour. If you have any questions or want to reserve a date please contact **Elizabeth Jones** at 703.228.7441.

46 GED STUDENTS TUTORED AT OAR OFFICE

There are 46 clients currently enrolled in tutoring sessions held in the OAR Office during the day and every evening, Monday-Friday, and Saturday mornings. We are using **EdOptions**’ online educational software to help prepare these clients for the exam. Several are on schedule to take the GED exam at the end of this calendar

year; the others will be ready to take the exam next year, if they keep up with their commitment to the program. Thanks to 32 very faithful volunteers who are working one-on-one with these clients. If you would like to help, we need you. Contact **Rachel Sparico** at rsparico@oaronline.org.

LETTER FROM A CLIENT

Kyle took an OAR class in the Arlington County Detention Facility three years ago. He then served two years in a Virginia State prison and was released early this spring. He wrote to tell me that he went back to Ohio to enroll at the university to get a college education. This is the latest note from him:

Dear **Ms. Arnall**:

Well my apartment search went well, not too many options and things get packed really fast. I settled on a place called Mill Street Village, however they do background checks. So, if my felony stops me from moving in there I will be in trouble. Apparently some places do not allow individuals with criminal histories to move in, something I had not expected. So I really hope this apartment works out. I

have secured a roommate... However, there is an added dimension I had not considered and that is my probation. I am going to try to contact my PO in a few minutes and run things by him.

Money is still a problem, though not as big. My uncle and I met with one of the guys that runs the residency department and if things go well he is going to try to get me in-state residency by winter. That would help a great deal. Going to college is excessively expensive... Do you know any organizations that offer scholarships to people in my situation? It is a long shot. I don't imagine there are many people trying to help individuals just getting out of prison go to college, but you never know unless you ask! That is all for now.

Sincerely, **Kyle**

OAR IS NOW ON FACEBOOK

Become a fan! Search: Offender Aid and Restoration of Arlington County

OAR is going green: To conserve paper, postage, and printing costs OAR will begin emailing all newsletters unless you tell us you prefer to get a printed copy. So, please let us know if you would prefer to receive your newsletters in print via the mail. Email or call the front desk and speak with **James** at jpowell@oaronline.org or 703-228-7030.

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
www.OARonline.org
E-mail: info@oaronline.org



Designation # 8078



Designation # 26226

OAR MISSION

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

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. OAR serving Arlington, Alexandria, and Falls Church, began in 1974.

OAR IS GOING GREEN!

OAR is going green: To conserve paper, postage, and printing costs **OAR will begin emailing all newsletters unless you tell us you prefer to get a printed copy.** So, please let us know if you would prefer to receive your newsletters in print via the mail. Email **James Powell** at jpowell@oaronline.org or call him at 703-228-7030 to let us know your preference.

CLIENT RETURNS SUIT

By **Erica Bishop**, Re-Entry Advisor

Last week, **Dave**, an OAR client seeking employment services, came to the office with a suit. I must have looked confused because he said, "I just wanted to donate this to your clothing closet. It no longer fits me and I know someone else could use it." It was amazing! This man had found the desire to give, even in his time of need. He continues to come to OAR regularly to seek employment.

VOLUNTEER NEEDS

- Computer Lab Monitors
- Spanish Life Skills Instructors
- Stress Management Facilitators
- GED & High School Completion
- Critical/ Life Skills Instructors
- Anger Management Facilitators
- ESL Facilitators
- Employment Readiness Tutors
- Juvenile Mentors
- Researchers

OAR'S WISH LIST

- Holiday Wrapping Paper
- \$25 Holiday Gift Cards
- 2 Small or Medium Shredders
- Standard Xerox Copy Paper
- Ivory Resume paper
- \$10 Fast Food Restaurant Cards
- \$5.50 Metro Cards & Bus passes
- Backpacks and travel sacks
- #2 pencils and Color Pencils
- Manila & pocket folders
- Composition Notebooks
- Dry erase & over head markers, Whiteboard erasers
- Copies of Student Workbooks

SUPPORTING OAR

Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to support the good work of OAR. 1- Visit www.OARonline.org to make a secure online payment. 2- Designate OAR on your Combined Federal Campaign (#26226) or United Way (#8078). 3- Send checks made payable to OAR to 1400 North Uhle Street, Suite 704, Arlington, VA 22201. Call us for more information at 703-228-7030.

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