



1400 North Uhle Street
Suite 704
Arlington, VA 22201
703-228-7030
www.OARonline.org

Did you miss the Second Chance Breakfast?

Join us for an encore on Wednesday, May 8 at two different times:
6:30-7:30 pm
8:00-9:00 pm
Contact Adam for more information at 703-228-7031

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OAR Tours

We want you to swing by the OAR office and see how far your support goes in assisting ex-offenders in finding jobs. To schedule a tour, please contact Adam Hand by calling 703-228-7031 or email at ahand@oaronline.org



Use OAR as an excuse to get a new TV

We are in need of a new or gently used TV for the OAR conference room. Do you have a 42" or larger flat screen TV that you would like to donate? Please contact Adam Hand by calling 703-228-7031 or email at ahand@oaronline.org. Thank you!

More Dates to Renew Your ACDF ID

The Arlington jail will be renewing volunteer IDs on Mon. May 6th, Mon. May 20th, Mon. June 3rd, Mon. June 17th from 8am to noon AND Sat. June 29th from 9:30am to 1:30pm. More dates to come. You must RSVP to attend. Contact Adam Hand by calling 703-228-7031 or email at ahand@oaronline.org.

Support OAR

Can you help our clients with Metro cards? They need them to get to educational classes, social service referrals, and to job interviews. You can mail cards to us, or make a donation online specifically for transportation by clicking below.

[Donate Now](#)

Thank you!

Help increase our visibility by liking us, following us, viewing our videos, connecting with us, and telling others about us through the links below:



Click here to sign up for a one-hour OAR Tour and bring a friend

Dear Elizabeth,

Last week I heard an appalling story.

"My mother was a crack addict," Ben told me. "I started on crack when I was 8. My step father was forcing drugs into me at age 12. I am now 34 years old and have nothing to show for myself."

We often assume that those incarcerated are there because of bad choices. And, usually this is true. But, can we blame an 8-year old for bad choices that resulted in him becoming an addict? I'm not sure that is fair.

Ben was in and out of drug treatment programs through his 20's. For a stretch of time when he was clean, he married and had a son. But, when the marriage began to crumble, he reverted back to his old life style.

"When we divorced, I gave my wife full custody of my son," Ben explained. "I did not want my son to have anything to do with me, given that I was a drug addict. He is nine now and we are just beginning to carefully develop a relationship. I want to take it slowly," he said.

As Ben sat talking with me I thought 'he could be my nephew. He is obviously quite smart, good looking and well spoken.' I told him that I thought he must be a very courageous and determined person to keep trying; not to give up. I asked him: What is the most difficult thing you are dealing with right now?

"Shame," he responded. "I feel a lot of shame about my life and especially about leaving my son. My mother was an addict and now my son has an addict for a parent. How sad is that?"

Ben is now in the OAR family. He is ours. We will be on this journey with him as he builds his self confidence and explores his options. Many in our society think of Ben as a throw away: an addict with a criminal record. But I know better. His determination not to give up has already been such a blessing.

Gail

Gail C. Arnall, OAR Executive Director

A Surprise Meeting at California Tortilla

Last week about 20 members of the OAR Advocacy and Leadership Program (ALP) met at California Tortilla on Wilson Boulevard to plan the group's summer events. In walked a few staff members from the Arlington County Detention Facility (ACDF). Some of the ACDF staff instantly recognized some of their former residents and came over to say hello.

One correctional officer, commenting on a young man he saw, said: "I haven't seen him in a while and was wondering what was going on." After hearing that the young man comes to participate in OAR programs almost daily, the correctional officer looked surprised but very pleased. "Oh, that's so good, good for him," he said. Another staff member commented: "Ya'all do this, get together like this? Wow!"

The ACDF staff members seemed intrigued by the camaraderie and warmth they witnessed in this group of returning citizens and genuinely happy that they were doing well.

It was a fleeting interaction but seemed to impact both parties. One client commented: "It was cool to have the jail staff see me out in 'the world'. It felt like just normal people bumping into each other, like equals. Who would have thought that was ever possible?"

The Advocacy and Leadership Program members went on to have a highly passionate group discussion over dinner, discussing exciting ideas for this summer and debating about ways to grow our movement to end mass incarceration and barriers to reentry.

If you are interested in joining our group, please join us for dinner and an advocacy workshop on May 13th at 6 p.m. at St. George's Episcopal Church across the street from the VA Square-GMU Metro Station. Everyone is welcome!

Katy Steinbruck, Director of Reentry Services

Client Testimonials

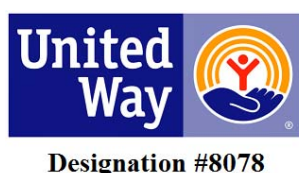
Michelle

"When I came to OAR, I found a place where I was accepted and where I can grow. I have been in jail and was addicted to drugs for almost 15 years. I am 36 years old and have been drug free and sober for just over a year. I attend OAR classes and I participate in the OAR Advocacy and Leadership Program. My drug addiction has cost me most of my life-but thanks to OAR, not all of it!"



Michael

"I needed support and that's what I have been getting at OAR. They have helped me with job links, employment, and encouragement. They gave me a mentoring team and also a great tutor. I have been out for over a year now. The relationship with my family has improved a lot. I am currently working part time and attending Northern Virginia Community College, and I could have not done this by myself. OAR has encouraged me to go back to school and kept my motivation to continue working."



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