

March 2013



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

Fifth-Annual Second Chance Fundraising Breakfast

April 4, 2013

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info!](#)

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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. **Your support reduces recidivism rates and ultimately makes our entire community a safer place to live.**

To schedule a tour, please contact Adam Hand by calling 703-228-7031 or email at ahand@oaronline.org



Renew Your ACDF ID

Attention OAR Volunteers!
The next ACDF ID Renewal is coming up on Sunday, April 28 at 9:30am. Please RSVP to Adam Hand by calling 703-228-7031 or email at ahand@oaronline.org. Thank you!

Support OAR

You can make a 100% tax-deductible financial contribution to OAR in one of three easy ways!

Stop by the office,

Mail a check, or

Donate online using a major credit card by clicking the button 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,

Did you know that by the time a child is three years old, his/her brain will already be 80% developed? And by the time a child is five, the brain is 95% developed (or not). Although we are born with some of the genetic wiring (the physiological connectors called "synapses"), most of these connectors are literally developed in the brain in the first three years of life. BUT, the extent to which these connectors get built is dependent upon the environment and experiences of a child in those early years. That's why there is increased attention on early childhood education - not just by educators but increasingly by business leaders. Why?

Because businesses need employees who are self-starters, confident, compassionate, and tenacious. All of these skills and behaviors are learned before a child is five! Business leaders report that the highest priority they look for in hiring staff is **persistence**. When I heard that, I thought of our clients.

I often say that many of our clients at OAR did not get enough "lap time." They did not get the range of experiences and support that every child needs. But, interestingly, in the face of daunting circumstances, so many of our clients are showing up and sticking with their reentry program. For many, that includes that most difficult journey of recovering from substance abuse. These folks are struggling against odds to develop internal resources as adults that most of us got before we turned five. It is such a blessing to be part of that heroic work.

You will hear from some of these folks at our April 4th Second Chance Breakfast. If you have not already reserved a seat, please call Adam at 703-228-7031 or hit reply and let me know! There is no charge; we will give you a chance to give or pledge a financial gift, and there is no minimum or maximum donation. We want you to know that through OAR, your community is helping those five year olds, who are all grown up now, recapture important leanings from those early days of life.

Gail

Gail C. Arnall, OAR Executive Director

Reentry Programming

February was a very busy month for our Reentry Department, especially the Advocacy and Leadership Program (ALP)! These are some of the activities that have been happening:

- On February 21, our Reentry Team led an Interactive Interview Skills workshop at JobLink in Alexandria. They covered topics related to job interview skills, including how to disclose criminal background, good body language, effective communication skills, limiting "filler words," enunciation, and mirroring the interviewer. The clients then brought all these skills together for a mock interview, after which an observer gave them feedback.
- ALP members and volunteers participated in community dialogue on February 19 at Allen Chapel AME Church. The topic of discussion was "From Prosecution to Community Reintegration." Ronald Machen, Jr., the US Attorney for the District of Columbia, kicked off the discussion, as well as sat on the panel for questions at the end.
- On February 20, ALP members had a screening of the documentary, *The House I Live In*, with members from Cherrydale Baptist Church (Arlington, VA). After the screening, there was a great group discussion of the issues raised in the film.
- Members and volunteers from ALP attended the "School-to-Prison Pipeline" forum at Virginia Theological Seminary on February 28. The coordinator of the forum said, "Please share our gratitude with the group for being an integral part of the discussion and advocacy efforts."
- OAR Reentry Advisor, David Butenas, went with three clients to dinner and a Washington Wizards basketball game on February 19. This was the first professional sporting event for all three of the clients! Check out the picture below!



Reentry clients enjoying a Wizards game!



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OAR: Strengthening Community Through Second Chances

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