

NEWCOMERS GUIDE

OAR Creates Second Chances

Ex-offenders contribute \$1 million in community services.

What happens when a community member in Arlington or Falls Church is assigned community service instead of being sent to jail? The judge tells the defendant to go to OAR.

Over the past year, 1,733 ex-offenders who are clients of Offender Aid and Restoration of Arlington County completed 75,000 hours of community service because they were court-mandated to provide the service, they wanted to work off their court fees, or they wanted to demonstrate to the judge their willingness to give back to the community.

During OAR's fiscal year ending June 30, OAR community service clients performed a record \$1,081,351 worth of services — an increase of 14 percent over the previous year.

OAR also provides ex-offenders with coaching and practical information about finding employment, managing money, and developing important career and life skills. This assistance has helped thousands of ex-offenders to have a second chance in the workplace and in their families.

OAR works with the courts in Arlington County and the City of Falls Church to assist clients in the completion of court-mandated community service. The success rate for clients finishing service hours was 90.3 percent.

Heather Pritchett, OAR's director of community service and special projects, said, "Community service is a cost-saving way to hold people accountable while benefiting the community. These clients work at various non-profits, faith-based organizations and government agencies in our community. They also help staff many of the community events throughout the year."

Pritchett cited one client who within hours of his initial meeting at OAR contacted the American Legion and a local Goodwill. He fulfilled his commitment of 100 hours within two months and received excellent performance evaluations from both sites. "His attitude and work ethic offer every indication that he is on the path to restoration," she said.

In July, OAR Executive Director Gail Arnall testified before the Arlington County Board that over the

past eight years, OAR's number of community service clients has nearly doubled.

"Why is this good news? Because community service is a restorative justice model. Judges are giving defendants the opportunity to give back to the community instead of being locked up. These individuals perform a service to our community, and they typically do not have to bear the brand of an 'ex-offender' the rest of their lives," Arnall said.

Other examples of organizations with whom OAR clients work include the Arlington Street People's Assistance Network (A-SPAN), which serves the homeless. OAR clients clean, serve meals, staff the registration desk, sort donations, and assist with operation of A-SPAN's Emergency Winter Shelter.

OAR clients also help serve free meals to presently homeless individuals and families at Arlington Assembly of God. Blanca Alaf, assistant to Pastor Lynn Carter, said, "OAR volunteers perform greatly needed kitchen and cleaning duties for our feeding ministry. They're all doing a wonderful job."

The organization served more than 2,500 clients during its 2012-2013 fiscal year. Fewer than 8 percent of OAR clients return to prison — a far lower recidivism rate than the Virginia-wide rate of 27.3 percent. For \$500 per client per year, OAR provides career training, life-skills coaching, and support for finding housing and employment. Taxpayers in Virginia pay \$25,000 annually to keep each inmate in prison.

Additional collaborations in the community include:

- ❖ The Arlington-Falls Church Interfaith Reentry Collaborative recently formed to join efforts of OAR with faith congregations to help ex-offenders' transition to employment and housing.
- ❖ The Alexandria Reentry Interfaith Working Group has been re-organized with Arnall, OAR's executive director, serving as chair.
- ❖ In June, the Arlington Bar Foundation presented OAR with a grant to support of OAR's work in the community.
- ❖ OAR partnered in July with Men's Wearhouse in the annual National Suit Drive, which donated used clothing to at-risk men transitioning into the workforce.

For a free digital subscription to one or all of the 15 Connection Newspapers, go to www.connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe

Be the first to know — get your paper before it hits the press.

Complete digital replica of the print edition, including photos and ads, delivered weekly to your e-mail box.

Questions? E-mail: goinggreen@connectionnewspapers.com



THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS



Turn unwanted valuables into CASH!

Powerful eBay selling for households and businesses

Single Items • Full Liquidations • Buy-outs

Drop off or call for a pick-up...we'll do the rest!

ezauctioning.com

1320 Prince St., Alexandria, VA 22314 • 703.778.6440

TWO POOR TEACHERS

Kitchen and Bathroom Remodeling

We Bring the Showroom to YOU!!



Free Estimates
703-969-1179



www.twopoorteachers.com

Fully Insured & Class A Licensed
EST. 1999

Select your remodeling products from our Mobile Kitchen and Bathroom Showroom and Design Center!!

Standard & Premium Bath Packages!

Visit our website for details!

Visit These Houses of Worship

Join A Club, Make New Friends, or Expand Your Horizons...

Anglican
Restoration Anglican Church...703-527-2720
Assemblies of God
Arlington Assembly of God...703-524-1667
Calvary Gospel Church...703-525-6636
Baptist
Arlington Baptist Church...703-979-7344
Bon Air Baptist Church...703-525-8079
Cherrydale Baptist Church...703-525-8210
First Baptist of Ballston...703-525-7824
McLean Baptist Church...703-356-8080
Memorial Baptist Church...703-538-7000
Mt. Zion Baptist Church...703-979-7411
Westover Baptist Church...703-237-8292
Baptist - Free Will
Bloss Memorial Free Will Baptist Church...703-527-7040
Brethren
Church of The Brethren...703-524-4100
Buddhist
The Vajrayogini Buddhist Center...202-331-2122
Catholic
St. Luke Catholic Church...703-356-1255
St. Agnes Catholic Church...703-525-1166
Cathedral of St. Thomas More...703-525-1300
Holy Transfiguration Melkite Greek Catholic Church...703-734-9566
Our Lady of Lourdes...703-684-9261
Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic...703-979-5580

St. Ann Catholic Church...703-528-6276
St. Charles Catholic Church...703-527-5500
Vatican II Catholic Community
NOVA Catholic Community...703-852-7907
Church of Christ
Arlington Church of Christ...703-528-0535
Church of God - Anderson, Indiana
Church of God...703-671-6726
Christian Science
McLean - First Church of Christ, Scientist...703-356-1391
First Church of Christ, Scientist, Arlington...703-534-0020
Episcopal
St. Andrew Episcopal Church...703-522-1600
St. George Episcopal Church...703-525-8286
St. Johns Episcopal Church...703-671-6834
St. Johns Episcopal Church-McLean...703-356-4902
St. Mary Episcopal Church...703-527-6800
St. Michael S Episcopal Church...703-241-2474
St. Paul Episcopal Church...703-820-2625
St. Peter's Episcopal Church...703-536-6606
St. Thomas Episcopal Church...703-442-0330
Trinity Episcopal Church...703-920-7077
Lutheran (ELCA)
Advent Lutheran Church...703-521-7010
Faith Lutheran Church...703-525-9283
German Lutheran Church...703-276-8952
Lutheran Church of The Redeemer...703-356-3346

Resurrection Lutheran Church...703-532-5991
Lutheran (Missouri Synod)
Our Savior Lutheran Church...703-892-4846
Nazarene
Arlington First Church of the Nazarene...703-525-2516
Non-Denominational
New Life Christian Church - McLean Campus...571-294-8306
Metaphysical
Arlington Metaphysical Chapel...703-276-8738
Orthodox
St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church...703-893-1759
Presbyterian
Arlington Presbyterian Church...703-920-5660
Church of the Covenant...703-524-4115
Clarendon Presbyterian Church...703-527-9513
Little Falls Presbyterian Church...703-538-5230
Trinity Presbyterian Church...703-536-5600
Westminster Presbyterian...703-549-4766
Presbyterian Church in America
Christ Church of Arlington...703-527-0420
Synagogues - Conservative
Congregation Etz Hayim...703-979-4466
Synagogues - Orthodox
Fort Myer Minyan...571-236-1189
Chabad Lubavitch of Alexandria-Arlington...703-370-2774
Synagogues - Reconstructionist
Kol Ami, the Northern Virginia Reconstructionist Community...571-271-8387
Unitarian Universalist
Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington...703-892-2565
United Methodist
Arlington United Methodist Church...703-979-7527
Trinity United Methodist Church of McLean...703-356-3312
Charles Wesley United Methodist...703-356-6336
Calvary United Methodist...703-892-5185
Cherrydale United Methodist...703-527-2621
Chesterbrook United Methodist...703-356-7100
Clarendon United Methodist...703-527-8574
Community United Methodist...703-527-1085
Mt. Olivet United Methodist...703-527-3934
Walker Chapel United Methodist...703-538-5200
United Church of Christ
Bethel United Church of Christ...703-528-0937
Rock Spring Congregational United Church of Christ...703-538-4886

Saint Ann Catholic Church

SUNDAY LITURGY SCHEDULE:

Saturday Vigil: 5:30 PM
Sunday: 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 AM
1:30 PM Spanish Liturgy
5312 North 10th Street
Arlington Virginia 22205
Parish Office: (703) 528-6276

DAILY EUCHARIST:

Weekdays
Monday-Friday, 6:30 AM & 8:30 AM
Saturday, 8:30 AM

All Are Welcome!

PARISH WEBSITE:

www.rc.net/arlington/stann



To highlight your Faith Community, call Karen at 703-778-9422