



Do you remember me?

A client that I taught in the Arlington County Detention Facility over five years ago called me recently. "Do you remember me from the Arlington jail?" he asked. (I usually cannot but this time I recognized his voice.) "I do," I said, "Aren't you the person who was going to start his own non-profit?" "Yeah," he said. "I didn't think you would remember." It reminded me that sometimes our most precious gift is simply remembering someone.

Daryl came in to visit with me at the office to tell me that after doing his time in Arlington, he then served four years in a federal prison and was released for home confinement a month ago. (He can leave the house but he has to tell probation where he is going and when he is coming back.) He has part-time work and a stipend from the Veteran's Administration, but he is looking for full-time work. Even so, he has already started a small support group for friends he had made on the inside. That was the plan for his non-profit five years ago. I am once again amazed at the resiliency of our clients and their determination to move on with their lives. Here is a man who has been out of prison for less than six months, is restricted to his house unless he has a specific reason to leave it, and needs full-time work. But, he has already begun to help others.

What a blessing!

Gail

Gail C. Arnall
Executive Director

Breaking News

OAR court-mandated Community Service clients completed 121,387 hours of community service in fiscal year 2014, which equates to **\$1,481,308** worth of volunteer time given back to our community.

Toy Drive in October

Don't forget, in October we will conduct a community-wide Toy Drive to collect gifts

to be given out in December to children whose parents are incarcerated. Our goal is 1,200 gifts so that every child can have three presents. Please consider making this Toy Drive a focus for your organization or congregation in October.

We will be collecting new and unwrapped toys for children ages 1- 14 as well as gift cards for teens 15-19. Contact our Volunteer Toy Drive Chair, Susan Olson by email at SOlson@oaronline.org for more information. We would love to put a collection box at any location you suggest and we'll arrange to pick them up.



Katy Steinbruck Now Director of Programs

Katy Steinbruck has been with OAR almost 15 years! For many years she was the Director of Volunteer Services, so many of you already know her. In 2006 she became the manager for Sage Flowers, OAR's social enterprise initiative. The flower shop did not withstand the 2008 recession, so Katy came back to work as a Reentry Advisory. Two years ago she became the Director of Reentry Services, where she has lead OAR in revamping our reentry program based upon evidence-based practices. As the Director of Programs, Katy is responsible for not only Reentry, but also the Jail-based educational program, the Volunteer program and the Community Service program.

Other Staff Changes: **Liliana Allen** is now our Senior Community Services Manager; **Jennie Altieri** is now our Reentry Coaching Services Manager; **David Butenas** is now our Reentry Employment Services Manager; **Alex Green** is now our Reentry Employment Specialist; and **Mike Bates** is now our Reentry Intake Services Manager.



Interfaith Reentry Collaborative is focused on removing employment barriers. The Northern Virginia Interfaith Reentry Collaborative continues to meet the third Thursday of most months. Contact Gail for specifics: GArnall@oaronline.org



Mike Bates, from Ignatius Volunteer Corp, is in his second year at OAR. He and Katy Steinbruck posed for a photo at the Ignatius "Celebrating Communities of Compassion" lunch last March.

A Different View from an OAR Intern

Today is my last day with you all here at OAR and I can tell you I am going to miss it a lot. When I got to OAR I thought I knew crime and the problems in the criminal justice system. That notion was shattered as I started to work with clients, who for the most part were good people. I had gone into this thinking that criminals and ex-cons deserved whatever they got because they had made mistakes (OK. Some meant to do it but they are the exception). OAR opened my eyes to what challenges our clients deal with. For example, I will never forget talking to a client and him telling me about his struggles, as I was doing this I was pulling up something on my computer and he told me 'that if [he] had my level of computer skills he could find a decent job,' or the client that told me he knew "God existed because [he] was still alive." What I am trying to say is that I have learned to show compassion to those who most would consider unworthy of it. Thank you! Sincerely, Will

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1. Make a monetary donation to OAR by clicking [DONATE NOW](#)
2. Donate through United Way designation #8078
3. Donate CFC designation #26226
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OAR: Strengthening Community Through Second Chances

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