

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS!

In 1974, a group of three women from local churches formed Offender Aid and Restoration (OAR) in Arlington. The story is told that the day they went to the court house to submit their Articles of Incorporation, a young lawyer named William Newman was there and volunteered (or was volunteered) to be a signatory on the paperwork. William Newman is now Chief Judge of the Arlington Circuit Court!

As we celebrate OAR's 40th Anniversary, we want to thank you — our partners, donors, and clients — for keeping us true to our mission, and expanding our ability to respond to those looking for a second chance. We celebrate each of you. Below are just a few major events that have occurred in the field of criminal justice over the past 40 years; see how many you remember:

- 1975 The FBI installs the first fingerprint reader in their laboratory.
- 1976 The Supreme Court lifts the suspension on capital punishment.
- 1979 AFIS (Automated Fingerprint Identification System) is created.
- 1983 New York becomes the first state to pass mandatory sentencing laws.
- 1984 Congress abolishes parole for federal prisons.
- 1986 Congress passes Mandatory Sentencing Guidelines.
- 1988 President Ronald Reagan signs the Anti-Drug Abuse Act.
- 1994 California passes a three-strikes law requiring third-time violent felony offenders to serve 25-years to life sentences in prison.
- 1995 Virginia abolishes parole for state prisoners.
- 1998 The FBI unveils the DNA Index System (DNS).
- 2001 President George W. Bush signs the USA Patriot Act.
- 2002 The total US prison population exceeds 2 million for the first time.
- 2005 The Supreme Court rules that Mandatory Sentencing Guidelines are unconstitutional.
- 2008 President George W. Bush signs the Second Chance Act.
- 2010 President Barack Obama signs a bill that will reduce the disparity in sentencing for crack and powder cocaine convictions.
- 2011 The Supreme Court rules that California's severe prison overcrowding constituted "cruel and unusual" punishment.



40th Anniversary Events

We hope you can join us for some of these special events throughout the year!

- **Second Chance Fundraising Breakfast** — April 9
- **Forum: Employers Beware!** — The law about hiring applicants with a criminal record
- **OAR Design Thinking Boot Camp**
- **Film Screening: *G-Dog***
- **“Santa in July” Toy Campaign** for Project Christmas Angel
- **Forum: National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers’ Recommendations for Change**
- **Forum: Welcoming former offenders IN your congregations**
- **Project Christmas Angel Annual Wrapping Party**

Please look for announcements regarding these events in our E-newsletter, on our website, or contact Adam for information at ahand@oaronline.org or 703-228-7031.

BERNARD KERIK CALLS FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PRISON REFORM



Bernard Kerik served under Mayor Giuliani as New York City's Police Commissioner and Department of Correction Commissioner, responsible for Rikers Island. In 2009, he went to prison on tax charges and for making false statements to authorities. He was released from a federal minimum-security prison in Cumberland, MD last spring.

In his first public speech since his release, Kerik spoke personally about his

experiences in prison that showed him a new side of the criminal justice system that he hadn't thought much about during a long law-enforcement career. "Now that I know," he said, "I have to speak out."

Actually, Kerik's speaking out is quite exceptional. He is still on probation, and yet he is willing to call those involved at every level of the system to do better.

Kerik would put fewer people in prison. He suggested that the smarter way to fight crime is to provide

alternative punishments for nonviolent and first-time offenders, as well as the elimination of the country's mandatory minimum sentencing laws. "I was with men sentenced to ten years in prison for five grams of cocaine. That's insane," he said.

Kerik praised the work of OAR in helping men and women return to the community and find new friends, employment, and a new way of living. "With organizations like OAR to help, people are given a chance when they come home. Without this, there is little hope that those returning from prison can get a second chance at life."

Otto Girr, Vice President of Human Resources for Miller & Long Co., Inc., closed the evening with a brief testimony about what his company is doing to not only hire former offenders, but provide training and support services for them. "While it is hard for felons to find employment, it is not impossible, especially if those in business will take a chance and hire them," he said.

Kerik spoke to a full house at the Arlington Artisphere, giving specific examples of how broken our country's criminal justice system is. The forum was sponsored by Offender Aid and Restoration (OAR) and the Center for Advancing Correctional Excellence! at George Mason University.

I GREW UP IN A POLICE STATE

I saw first-hand the effects of racial profiling in my community. Once, when I was around 10 years old, my brother and I were returning home from the recreation center in the neighborhood. A black male friend stopped to ask my brother for change to get a soda at the store. Then, suddenly, a police car screeched to a stop just in front of our path. Two police officers jumped from their car with their guns drawn and pointing in our direction. My brother, age 15, hurriedly grabbed my neck and thrust me face first into the concrete sidewalk, loudly screaming, "David, shut up and don't move!" One of the officers came over and joked that my brother knew the routine.

As I felt the breath of the policeman over top of me getting closer, my body suddenly paralyzed and his hands began to remove my shoes, pull my pants legs up, and explored the insides of my pants and jacket pockets. The police officer yanked me onto my back, scraping my upper right arm along the concrete sidewalk. Blood began to drip off my shoulder because of the officer's reckless actions. The officer eventually finished with me and switched to performing these same tactics on my brother.

Word soon reached my home and my mom, dad, sister, and other two brothers raced hysterically to the scene to find my brother and me planted on the concrete sidewalk, spread eagle, our shoes removed, and our pants and shirts pushed up from where the police had searched us. The police

officer who had searched us was now involved with my father, trying to justify their actions. While they were arguing, three more police cars arrived, and these officers surrounded my father and told him that he would join us on the ground if he did not move back. Eventually, the police officers confirmed that we were not selling drugs, but merely treating a friend to a soda.

As I lay in bed that night, my thoughts were greatly confused; but, sadly, as the years passed, this type of police state action would become acceptable behavior in not just my neighborhood, but black neighborhoods across the country. Even now, when I go into black neighborhoods, I am careful to keep my hands visible and not make sudden moves. I know that in a perfect world, society would be colorless; but, I live in the reality of a racially-profiled society. — David H., Reentry Client

Impact of Incarceration

- More than one in 100 American adults are in jail or prison
- On any given day, over 1.5 million children in this country have a parent serving a sentence in a state or federal prison
- African-American children are nine times more likely and Hispanic children are three times more likely than white children to have a parent in prison
- 10% of incarcerated mothers have a child in a foster home or other state care, and the average stay in foster care for a child of an incarcerated mother is 3.9 years

WE LOVE TO TELL THE STORIES...

“I’ve started signing up for charity races as a way to give back!”

When I handed Pat her completion letter, confirming that she had earned enough Community Service hours to pay \$2,000 in court fines that she owed, her eyes started to tear up and she said: “You know, this is making me emotional because it’s been a long road. I’ve made a lot of mistakes in my past, but I’m going to continue volunteering at the YMCA. I wasn’t excited about this whole community service deal at first and was dreading doing the hours, but those kids are really fun and now I actually look forward to going. It’s so important to give something back. Because of my community service, I know I need to give back. I like to run and stay fit so I’ve started signing up for charity races as a way to give back. I feel really blessed from this whole experience.”
— Heather P., Director of Community Service

“John came home after 37 years...”

I had the most amazing day. Probation brought a man to OAR who had just been dropped off at 1pm in Arlington from the Virginia Department of Corrections with no place to stay, no clothing, no money, nothing. He had been locked up since 16 with only a brief 6 month interim in his late twenties and he was now 49. He had spent his entire adult life in prison. He seemed shell shocked and said how very different everything was to him (no pay phones, cell phones, computers, the subway system, and so on). He said our front desk person was giving someone money to get her a soda and he thought she was giving them play money it looked so different now. We were able to lay out his schedule for the next two days and what buses to take where and help him with metro fare, clothing, food, gift card for lunch the next day, etc. We told him about the shelters and how to access them – and let him know what to do and not do while in the shelter. We talked together about what he hopes to do in the next few weeks, and then longer term. What a blessing this man has already been to us all in the office. He was so full of hope and wonder. We understand how quickly that can turn to discouragement and fear. We know all too well how shocking it can be for people to go from highly structured environments where you are told what to do and when to do it to the experience of being homeless and in a winter shelter. So, we made sure that he is scheduled to come back to OAR each day for a while just to touch base and get answers to new questions he will have. We are grateful that we could be there for him at such a precarious time.
— Katy S., Director of Reentry Services

“Nine months ago I was sitting in a cell.”

Hi Gail. I am excelling at NOVA, and shall be on stage this Tuesday in a Black History Play/Extravaganza; I attached a flyer, please invite the OAR Family. The drama department wants me to be in future productions...I was only doing it to get extra credit for my History class! Reminds me of how I got involved with OAR...I was in the shelter and needed bus fare, which my roommate, who was a member of OAR, had fare cards...the rest is an awesome story! Sometimes I sit in class and take a look around the room, then, the thought that 9 months ago I was in a prison cell, not knowing what my future was. I sincerely thank you for the tremendous service your organization does to instill pride and dignity into us clients...your staff are a very caring group!
— Dave, Reentry Client

“I have so much in common with these inmates.”

Volunteering with OAR has been such a positive experience for me...I most recently taught a Conflict Resolution class to inmates at the Arlington County Detention Facility (ACDF). Most of them were very candid about their offenses, eager to share, and sincere in their desire to make amends and better themselves. Despite having no criminal record of my own and no history of incarcerated family or friends, I personally will remember that I have so much in common with these inmates; many of our experiences, struggles, and hopes as human beings are essentially the same. At first, I was admittedly a little apprehensive and had misperceptions about how inmates convicted of serious crimes might behave, but those have been totally shattered by my experiences volunteering with OAR. As a resident of Arlington, I often pass by the ACDF; when I do, I think of those inmates and wish them well.
— Jim H., OAR Volunteer

“I will continue to volunteer at AFAC!”

Hi Ms. D: I hope you’ve been well and warm in this weather. I am happy to say that I’ve completed these 40 amazing hours; I had a great time with every hour. I hope to continue volunteering at AFAC. I communicated with Ms. Lee my interest and also that you would be in contact with her in the near future. I’m definitely going to be seeing the Civitan group again in April @ Washington-Lee, I loved that. I saw my dentist and my DC Divas football coach have tables randomly set up together at that flea market. I learned their hobbies, lol. It was all good. Thanks for your help throughout all of this. Wish you well & Thanks a ton!
— Renee, Community Service Client



Strengthening Community Through Second Chances

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



Facebook.com/OARJustice



Twitter.com/OARJustice



LinkedIn.com/OARJustice



YouTube.com/OARToday

OAR's 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.

GET INVOLVED!

Donate! Online at OARonline.org/donateonline
Mail (make check payable to "OAR")
Amazon: amzn.com/w/H8R9GQV4RYA1
Target: target.com/ot/list/jVkJbBzJy-4Mnu4pCNkzsQ

Host us for an event!

Organize a gift card or Metro fare card drive for OAR. Call Gail for a list of our most needed cards.

Volunteer your time and talents to OAR.

Bring friends to a one-hour tour of our office! Register at OARonline.org/tours. Here are the dates and times for April through June:

Thurs, 4/24/14—Noon
Tues, 4/29/14—8:00am
Thurs, 5/8/14—Noon
Thurs, 5/22/14—6:30pm
Tues, 6/3/14—8:00am
Thurs, 6/26/14—Noon

OAR's BOARD

Mondre' Kornegay, Chair
Alexandria Sheriff's Office

Dave Wiley, Treasurer
Jubilee Housing, Inc.

David Remick, Secretary
*Alexandria/Arlington Workforce
Investment Board*

Jim Bennett
Real Estate Developer

Christina Biebesheimer
World Bank

Lori Carbonneau
Community Member

Harry Covert
Freelance Journalist

Joseph Katona
Ashoka

Kate Miner
Community Member

Robert Price
Law Offices of Robert M. Price

Jordan Segue
Community Member

Alfred Taylor, Jr., Ed.D.
Retired Professor

Gail Arnall, Ph.D.
*OAR Executive Director,
ex-officio*



Designation #8078



Designation #26226