Greetings!

Can you believe the summer is coming to an end already? July 1st began a new fiscal year for OAR, and we are hitting the ground running! Read below to learn about upcoming events and ways to get involved. First, let me share with you some of OAR’s many successes from our last fiscal year because of your continued support:

- 2,421 total participants
- 1,666 Community Service participants
- 500 individuals served pre-release
- 454 individuals served post-release
- 17 individuals participated in our inaugural year of the Intensive Reentry Program (IRP), and 1 has returned to the criminal justice system, giving us a 94% success rate thus far for the program

Our Annual Report will be coming out soon with more successes from our FY16. I can't wait to see what's in store for OAR and our participants in the coming year. Thank you for being on this journey with us!

Elizabeth Jones Valderrama, MA, CVA
Executive Director

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Sing Out for Second Chances

Join OAR on Saturday, October 15th for a special event! We're inviting several choirs from local faith communities to come and share musical selections, and we are going to feature several speakers from OAR to discuss the importance of second chances. This event is a fundraiser for OAR, and 100% of ticket sales will directly benefit OAR's programs! Please help us spread the word, and be sure to buy your tickets today!

Saturday, October 15, 2016
7:00pm-9:00pm
First Baptist Church of Alexandria (2932 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22302)
Tickets are $18 between now and October 8th. Price increases to $20/ticket thereafter.

Purchase your tickets online here!

Attend a Tour at OAR!
Did you know that OAR holds free one-hour Tours twice per month? These Tours are open to the public and are a fabulous introduction to our organization. Guests will get to meet some of OAR’s staff, see our office, and hear about all of OAR's programs in detail. Upcoming Tour dates are September 8th at 8:00am and September 21st at 12:00pm. Click HERE to view more dates or to register to attend.

Your Help is Needed: OAR's Annual Toy Drive
Each year, OAR hosts a Toy Drive in the month of October to collect new, donated toys in anticipation of Project Christmas Angel! We provide holiday gifts to children of incarcerated and recently released parents. Last year, we distributed over 1,200 gifts for children ages newborn to 18.

We need your help! We are seeking businesses, faith communities, and civic organizations who are willing to host a donation box for us. We will provide the box and signage for you, and we'll come pick up the toys from you. You would provide the space for the box and promote the need to your community. Interested in hosting a donation box? Please contact Heather Pritchett, Director of Development and Outreach.

Volunteers are also needed to be drivers to drop off donation boxes at sites around the DC metro area, and to pick up the donated toys from the sites. Please contact Heather Pritchett for more details at hpritchett@oaronline.org or 703-228-7435.

Save the Date: Project Christmas Angel
It's almost that time of year! Save the date for OAR’s Project Christmas Angel, providing holiday gifts to children of incarcerated and recently released
parents, which will be held Wednesday, December 14, 2016 from 6:30-9:00pm! The event will once again be held at St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church (4000 Lorcom Lane, Arlington, VA).

We will have more details and RSVP information on our website in the coming months, but for now please go ahead and mark your calendars and plan to join us!

Join Our Mobile Action Network

Join OAR's Mobile Action Network! We send out important updates and notifications via text message to your cell phone. We send just one text per month, so we promise not to flood your inbox. This is a great way to stay in touch with what's happening at OAR - directly on your cell phone!


A Participant Story

Christopher came home from incarceration in May, after serving a 23-year sentence. Thankfully, he had a stable and supportive friend to live with, but the matter of employment loomed large. Christopher had a strong work history prior to his incarceration and glowing references from his work in the correctional facility, but the search was overwhelming. The world of online job applications was brand new, and navigating the overwhelming data of job websites was a formidable task.

Working with his OAR Reentry Coach and Employment Advisor in weekly sessions, Christopher was able to secure a part-time position at Goodwill. Shortly thereafter, a partner organization reached out to OAR mentioning a need for a part-time handyman. Christopher interviewed for the job and greatly impressed the employer, so much so that they found even more ways to involve him in their organization. With both part-time jobs, he is saving money now, with an eye toward finding his own apartment.

OAR also connected Christopher to the Arlington Employment Center, which helped him access funds from the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. With those monies, Christopher is going to enroll in CDL school during the day and continue his handyman work at night. Christopher was a truck driver before his incarceration. He is excited to once again serve the community from behind the wheel. Christopher's profound determination, excellent people skills, and impressive work ethic are to credit for his quick success in the workforce. Through your support, OAR had the privilege to help open some doors along the way for Christopher and many others.
Support OAR

1. Make a monetary donation to OAR by clicking [Donate Now](http://oaronline.org/donate-now/)
2. Donate through United Way designation #8078
3. Donate CFC designation #26226
4. Donate Target Gift Cards in increments of $10 each for clients
5. Shop on our Amazon Wish List: [OAR’s Amazon Wish List](http://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist?ref_=cmwl_search_rvp_wl&cid=A29JY6MLB94BCD&pldnSite=1) Don’t forget to let Heather hpritchett@oaronline.org know who you are so we can send you a thank you note.
6. Attend a one-hour OAR Tour or an OAR Event and bring your friends: [http://oaronline.org/oar-tours-upcoming-events/](http://oaronline.org/oar-tours-upcoming-events/)

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