



Strengthening Community Through Second Chances

Greetings!



While at the Arlington County Fair recently, a young man came up to say hello and I recognized him immediately as one of our former participants. It turns out he received services from both our Reentry and Community Service departments in 2008.

He shared with me that he is now married, he has a great career as a Marketing Director for a local company, and he has not been involved with the criminal justice system since before he participated in our programs. He's contributing back to the community, he's a taxpayer and author, and also volunteers in his spare time. He is still so grateful for OAR's support almost 10 years later!

I was so pleased to see him. This is the magic of this wonderful organization. I am inspired daily by the incredible work of our team members and the gifts each of our participants bring. As a supporter of OAR, I want to thank you for being part of this magic!

You can read more below about OAR's involvement at the Arlington County Fair. I'm also excited to introduce you to "Robert", one of our many participants with a story to share that further demonstrates the magic of OAR's work.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Elizabeth".

Elizabeth Jones Valderrama, MA, CVA
Executive Director



OAR Connects with the Community at the Arlington County Fair

OAR Community Service volunteers were at the Arlington County Fair from Monday through Sunday helping to set up the Fair, monitoring the parking lots, and more. OAR provided **89**

volunteers who contributed 551 hours of time at the Fair! Over 25 participants were able to have their case closed after finishing their Community Service hours at the Fair!

Additionally, OAR Board members, volunteers and team members staffed a booth in the indoor vendors section, sharing with the community information about OAR's work. We were able to sign up people to attend tours, distribute information, and engage adults and youth in OAR-related questions to win candy.



Pictured L to R: Elizabeth Jones Valderrama (Executive Director), Gladys Jones (Volunteer), Anne Breville (Volunteer and Special Projects Associate)



Pictured L to R: Sharon Kotok (Volunteer), Jeanette Perthel (Reentry Specialist)

We are grateful to be able to connect with our community in this way each year! We owe many thanks to the Arlington County Fair Board members who help to facilitate our involvement, to our volunteers who participated!



Sushi-Zen Fundraiser a Success



Pictured L to R: Ellen Fitzgibbons (Executive Administrative Assistant), Rosie Gordon (Owner, Sushi-Zen)

On August 2nd, OAR participated in a fundraiser hosted by Sushi-Zen, located on Lee Highway in Arlington.

Sushi-Zen is donating 20% of their dinner proceeds from the evening to OAR. More than 70 supporters joined us, in addition to Sushi-Zen's regular customers. OAR team members were on-site the entire evening to share about our mission and engage with the supporters. We are grateful to all who were able to join us for this fun (and delicious) event! We are also so grateful to Sushi-Zen for hosting us and contributing to OAR!



Upcoming Events

Sing Out for Second Chances

Sunday, October 15, 2017

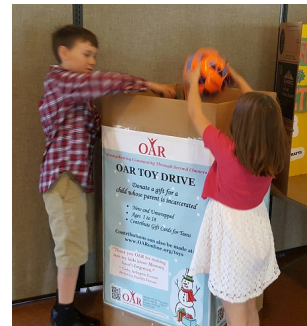
Join OAR and Mt. Zion Baptist Church for an evening of inspirational music presented by local faith community choirs and guest speakers from OAR to discuss the power and importance of second chances! The event will be hosted by and held at Mt. Zion Baptist Church (3500 S 19th St, Arlington, VA 22204). Visit our website for more information: <https://www.oaronline.org/sing-out-for-second-chances-2017/>



Toy Drive

The entire month of October 2017

Each year in the month of October, OAR hosts a community-wide Toy Drive to collect new, donated toys and holiday gifts for children of incarcerated parents. We are seeking businesses, community centers, faith communities, and other locations to host donation boxes for us where toy collections can be held. For more information, please contact Anne Breville at abreville@oaronline.org or 703-228-0587.



Project Christmas Angel

Wednesday, December 13, 2017

Save the date for Project Christmas Angel! This is one of OAR's largest events of the year! OAR collects holiday gifts for children of incarcerated and recently released parents and distributes the gifts to the children. Plan to join us on Wednesday, December 13th for our Wrapping Party, where nearly 200 volunteers will gather to select gifts for the children, wrap them, and prepare them for delivery. RSVP required. The RSVP form will be posted on our website in November. For more information, please contact Anne Breville at abreville@oaronline.org or 703-228-0587.



Second Chance Fundraising Breakfast

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Save the date for our 10th Annual Second Chance Fundraising Breakfast! Last year, we had nearly 600 guests in attendance to support OAR. The event will be held at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Crystal City (1700 Jefferson Davis Hwy, Arlington, VA). For more information, please contact Heather Pritchett at hpritchett@oaronline.org or 703-228-7435. More details coming soon.



A Participant Story: "Robert"

"Robert" (*name changed to protect privacy*) is a current participant in OAR's Intensive Reentry Program (IRP). Robert was released five months ago after having been in and out of incarceration since he was nine years old. Robert shared that he was getting into trouble at a very young age and has spent most of his adult life behind bars. His most recent incarceration was three years and four months at Coffeewood Correctional Center in Culpeper.

Ashley, an OAR Reentry Coach, began working with Robert about six months prior to his release, driving to Culpeper every week to meet with him one-on-one to discuss his plan once he got released and to begin building a trusting relationship with Robert. Ashley was also there on the day of Robert's release and picked him up at the gate. OAR has continued to work with Robert post-release, including getting him a cell phone, clothes, prescription eyeglasses, and helping to arrange and pay for travel out of state so he can visit his son, who is in foster care.

Now, just five months after his release, Robert is happy to report that he has a job as a dishwasher at a restaurant in Arlington, he's been able to reconnect with his son and he will be getting custody of his son and bringing him back to live with him in Arlington. Robert stated, "If it wasn't for OAR, I know I'd already be back in jail. This is the longest I've been out my entire adult life. I had already planned to return to my old ways before I met Ashley and OAR. OAR has really saved my life."




Learn More About OAR at a Free Tour!

Want to learn more about us? Join us for a **free one-hour tour** at the OAR office! Guests will hear about OAR's programs and services from the staff who are working in the programs, tour the OAR office, and hear participant success stories. We promise to start and end on time. Below is a list of upcoming dates/times. To sign up, please [sign up here](#) or contact Heather Pritchett at hpritchett@oaronline.org.

Thursday, September 7 at 6:30pm
Tuesday, September 19 at 12:00pm
Thursday, October 12 at 8:00am
Wednesday, October 25 at 12:00pm
Wednesday, November 8 at 6:30pm
Tuesday, November 14 at 12:00pm
Wednesday, December 6 at 8:00am
Monday, December 18 at 12:00pm



Support OAR

1. Make a monetary donation to OAR by clicking  <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=cm_wl_search_rvp_wl&cid=A29JY6MLB94BCD&pldnSite=1) (http://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist?ref=cm_wl_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/>



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