



Strengthening Community Through Second Chances

Greetings!



It's only two months into 2018 and we already have so much to be grateful for this year! OAR's event, "Cycle for Second Chances" was a wonderful success and we had a sold-out class to cycle in support of second and fair chances for individuals returning home from incarceration! We have photos from the event to share with you below.

Looking ahead, we have OAR's 10th Annual Second Chance Fundraising Breakfast! Read below for more information on this great event and how you can join us or become a sponsor.

I hope you will also take the time to read about OAR's "Fair Chance Business Pledge," a new initiative that gives businesses the opportunity to support second and fair chances for individuals with criminal histories.

Even just two months into the year, we are grateful for the abundance of support that we receive from you, our supporters and friends. From all of us at OAR, thank you!

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

Elizabeth Jones Valderrama, MA, CVA
Executive Director



10th Annual Second Chance Fundraising
Breakfast



OAR's 10th Annual "Second Chance Fundraising Breakfast" will take place on Tuesday, April 24, 2018 at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington, VA. Guests are invited to enjoy a free, hot breakfast, hear from community leaders, and get inspired by the stories of lives impacted. This is a fundraising event to support OAR's programs, but there is no minimum and no maximum donation expected. As much as anything, we want guests to learn about the critical work being done in the community and to inspire individuals to support OAR's work.

We are still seeking additional Table Captains for this event. Table Captains are in charge of inviting other guests to join them for the event. If you are interested in being a Table Captain or would like more information, please contact Heather Pritchett at hpritchett@oaronline.org or 703-228-7435. We are also seeking sponsors for this event as well! [Visit our website](#) for more details on how to become a sponsor.

For more information about this event [click here](#) .

To RSVP to the event [click here](#) .



Sold Out "Cycle for Second chances" a Big Success!

Earlier this month, OAR hosted an event with [CycleBar Columbia Pike](#) in Arlington for an indoor cycling fundraising event, "Cycle for Second Chances." We had a full class show up to raise funds and awareness and ride for second chances and over \$1,600 was raised to support OAR's programs. We had a great time (and workout) at this event and we want to thank everyone who came out to cycle for second chances. Many thanks to CycleBar Columbia Pike for hosting this event! Below are pictures from the event.





Local Businesses Support Second Chances Through OAR's "Fair Chance Business Pledge"



OAR's "Fair Chance Business Pledge" gives local businesses the chance to support second and fair chances for individuals with criminal backgrounds. When almost 70 million Americans have a criminal record of some kind, it is important to remove the unnecessary barriers that prevent these individuals from access to employment, training, education, and resources required for stability and success. If you are a business or part of an organization that believes in giving second and fair chances, [click here](#) to read and sign the pledge. By taking this pledge, your business is joining a community of local partners that believe in second chances and your company name will be added to our website as having signed the pledge. The businesses who have already signed OAR's pledge include: Beach Geeks, Inc., Canoe Media Services, City of Alexandria, CruisePlanners, Kingsbury Chocolate & Confections, Rachel E.H. Photography, VanderPoel Architecture, Volunteers of America Chesapeake, and Wednroff & Associates. For more information about OAR's "Fair Chance Business Pledge," [visit our website](#).



Introducing OAR's #PartnershipTuesdays

Tuesdays on our social media platforms will now be dedicated to featuring one of OAR's partner organizations in the community as a part of our "#PartnershipTuesdays" thread. We work with so many great organizations throughout the year and we want to share with you how we work with these organizations and also about the great work that they do! We have already featured a few organizations so make sure to follow us on social media and search the hashtag "#PartnershipTuesdays" if you want to see the previous posts and to read future posts!



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Volunteer Spotlight



A 30-year Arlington resident, Nora Palmatier is a committed community member and OAR volunteer. Nora has been volunteering with OAR since 2007 and has become an integral asset to OAR's Reentry Emergency Services Team. Nora started at OAR as a volunteer teaching substance use classes in the Arlington County Detention Facility. After retirement, she was happy to take on new and more time-intensive volunteer responsibilities with the Reentry

Emergency Services Team. Nora now comes into the office two days a week to help with Emergency Services, providing support, clothing, food, and transportation assistance to individuals recently released from incarceration. When asked about her work with OAR, Nora said that she enjoys helping with Emergency Services and is able to use some of the skills she has developed with her background in public health and non-profit management.

In addition to volunteering at OAR, Nora serves as the Chair of Arlington County's Urban Forestry Commission and volunteers with Tree Stewards, another community-based nonprofit organization with a mission to care for street, park, and school trees and to educate others about the importance of caring for and growing trees. Nora is also an avid cyclist and her other passions include walking, hiking, and exploring local trails.

Thank you Nora for all the hard work you do for OAR's Reentry Emergency Services Team!



A Participant Story: Meet "Melinda"*

Melinda had been assigned over 150 hours of community service through OAR's



community service program. Struggling to find a site to complete her community service hours, Melinda came in to meet with an OAR Case Manager. Her Case Manager helped her look through OAR's list of sites in D.C. and she chose the Community for Creative Non-Violence (CCNV) Homeless Shelter. The CCNV shelter is run almost exclusively by volunteers and provides shelter for up to 1,350 people at one time. Melinda completed all of her hours in less than two months with an overall "excellent" evaluation from her site supervisor who was more than happy to have Melinda volunteer there. After finishing her hours, Melinda called her Case Manager to tell her what a good experience she had volunteering with the CCNV shelter. She said, "I love getting up every morning, I love being there and helping people. Thank you for helping me find this site!" Melinda even said that she plans on continuing to volunteer at the CCNV shelter after completing her hours because she loves being there so much.

**Name changed to protect privacy of the participant. Photo is a stock photo and not necessarily representative of the participant.*



Upcoming Events

Second Chance Month

April, 2018

The United States Congress established April as "Second Chance Month" to honor the work of communities, governmental entities, nonprofit organizations, employers, and individuals to remove unnecessary legal and societal barriers that prevent an individual with a criminal history from thriving in the community. OAR believes in second and fair chances and we hope that you can join us in spreading awareness about this wonderful month of second chances.



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). Click [here](#) to learn more and [here](#) to RSVP to the event.



Spring2ACTion

Wednesday, April 25, 2018

Spring2ACTion is the City of Alexandria's Giving Day and OAR is once again participating in this great event! It is a 24-hour online giving event presented by ACT for Alexandria, celebrating the commitment of local nonprofits to make Alexandria a better place to live, work, play, and serve. We will be posting more

about Spring2ACTION on our website and social media as the event approaches, so make sure to follow us to find out more information!



Do More 24

Thursday, May 17, 2018 to Friday, May 28, 2018

Do more
24 is the
DMV's
largest
24-hour



One day. Our community.

online fundraiser powered by United Way of the National Capital Area, bringing together nonprofit organizations, partners, and donors committed to creating impact in our community. Mark your calendars for this day of giving and stay tuned for more information that will be posted on our website and social media!



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. Please [sign up here](#) or contact Heather Pritchett at hpritchett@oaronline.org.

Upcoming Tour Dates

Tuesday, February 27, 12:00PM
Wednesday, March 7, 6:30PM
Thursday, March 22, 12:00PM
Wednesday, April 11, 8:00AM
Tuesday, April 17, 12:00PM
Thursday, May 10, 6:30PM
Thursday, May 24, 12:00PM
Tuesday, June 12, 8:00AM
Wednesday, June 20, 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 participants
5. Shop on our Amazon Wish List: [OAR's Amazon Wish List](#)

[▶ Donate Now](#)

(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/>



OAR: Strengthening Community Through Second Chances

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