



Strengthening Community Through Second Chances

Greetings!



It's hard to believe, but we are nearing the end of another year at OAR... fiscal year, that is! We are wrapping up FY17 and we are anxious to share with you all that our participants have accomplished with your support in next month's e-newsletter.

In this e-newsletter I am honored to share the story of one of our community service participants, Albert, who was able to honor his father and successfully complete his court-mandated hours with support from OAR.

I hope to see you at one of our very special upcoming events including sushi on August 2nd. Want to join me for dinner?

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

Elizabeth Jones Valderrama, MA, CVA
Executive Director



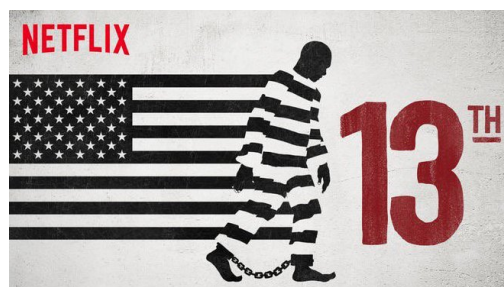
Films for Summer Viewing

We often get questions about resources to read or view to learn more about reentry and the criminal justice. So we have compiled a list of a few documentary films our team members have recently watched and are talking about.

13th

[Available on Netflix](#)

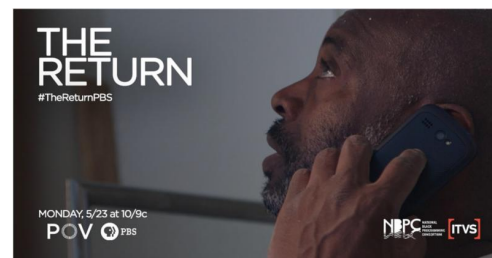
In this thought-provoking documentary, scholars, activists and politicians analyze the criminalization of African Americans and the U.S. prison boom.



The Return

[Available on PBS](#)

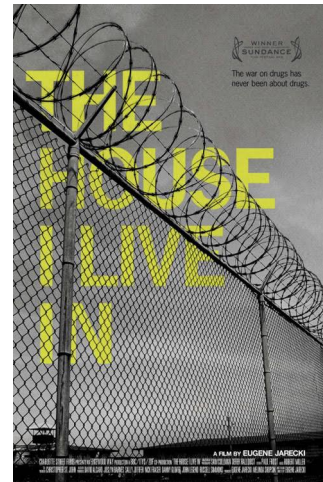
The Return examines the "Three Strikes" law and its amendment Prop 36 through the eyes of those on the front lines - prisoners suddenly freed, families turned upside down, reentry providers helping navigate complex transitions and attorneys and judges wrestling with an untested law.



The House I Live In

[Available for purchase online](#)

For the past 40 years, the war on drugs has resulted in more than 45 million arrests, \$1 trillion dollars in government spending, and America's role as the world's largest jailer. Yet for all that, drugs are cheaper, purer, and more available than ever. Filmed in more than twenty states, The House I Live In captures heart-wrenching stories of those on the front lines - from the dealer to the grieving mother, the narcotics officer to the senator, the inmate to the federal judge - and offers a penetrating look at the profound human rights implications of America's longest war.



Upcoming Events

Sushi-Zen Fundraiser

Wednesday, August 2, 2017

In celebration of their 20th Anniversary, Sushi-Zen is partnering with 20 different nonprofit organizations throughout the next year. OAR has been selected as one of their charity partners, and on August 2, 2017, a portion of all the dinner sales at Sushi-Zen will be donated to OAR! Plan to join us on the evening of August 2nd to enjoy delicious sushi and support OAR! For more information, please contact Heather Pritchett at hpritchett@oaronline.org or 703-228-7435. More details coming soon.



Sing Out for Second Chances

Sunday, October 15, 2017

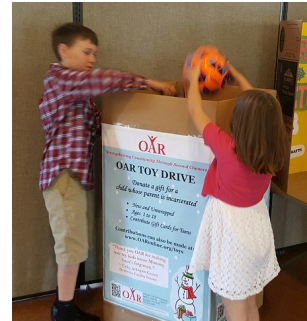
Join OAR for an evening of inspirational music presented by local faith community choirs and guest speakers from OAR to discuss the power and importance of second chances! The event will be held at Mt. Zion Baptist Church (3500 S 19th St, Arlington, VA 22204). For more information, please contact Heather Pritchett at hpritchett@oaronline.org or 703-228-7435. More details coming soon.



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

Albert received a notice from the Department of Motor Vehicles that his driver's license had been suspended for his failure to pay his court costs. Albert owed more than \$2,500 in court cost, he did not have any income at the time, and he didn't have a way to pay the court back which meant that he would be unable to get his driver's license back and that without payment the debt will continue to grow. Thanks to supporters like you and an incredible partnership between the Courts in Arlington County and the City of Falls Church and OAR, the Courts



can offer the option for individuals, just like Albert, who are unable to make payments on their court costs to complete community service under OAR's supervision. In Albert's case, the Court ordered him to complete 151 hours of community service. After the initial meeting at OAR, Albert began completing the hours right away. A couple of weeks later we learned that Albert's father, an Army Veteran, passed away. Albert wanted to find a way to honor his father and give back to the community at the same time so he came back to OAR seeking assistance in finding a community service site that was working with the veteran community. We were able to connect him with the local American Legion to continue his hours giving back to veterans. Albert completed his court-mandated hours a few months later and the experience impacting him so much that he continues to volunteer with the American Legion now.

Albert stopped by the OAR office recently to show us his driver's license. He shared with us that he's working on starting his own business and that he would not have been able to do so with the debt that he owed to the courts and without a driver's license. Albert will be off probation in a few months after his next court hearing. When he was leaving the OAR office and saying good bye he said "OAR changed my life. Thank you for being the angel to me that I needed. I appreciate you."

We are grateful to the Courts for this wonderful 30-year partnership which allows us to offer alternative sentencing options for youth and adults and for the 300+ community service sites who allow OAR participants to complete over 150,000 community service hours with them each year.




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, July 6 at 12:00 pm
Wednesday, July 12 at 6:30 pm
Tuesday, August 1 at 8:00 am
Wednesday, August 16 at 12:00 pm



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/>



OAR: Strengthening Community Through Second Chances

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