Greetings!

We recently wrapped up National Volunteer Week in April! I’d like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the entire team at OAR, to give a huge thank you to the hundreds of OAR volunteers who help fulfill our critical mission each day. We truly could not do this work without you.

Every day, our office is buzzing about with volunteers helping in an administrative capacity, working to provide emergency services to individuals who have just been released from jail, preparing to teach courses in the Arlington County Detention Facility, and so much more. We also have volunteers who help with special events throughout the year, such as Project Christmas Angel and the Arlington County Fair. We are a staff of 14 people serving over 2,400 individuals each year. As you can imagine, we just would not be able to make such an impact in our community without the dedication and talent of our volunteers!

Read ahead to learn about some exciting updates at OAR and mark your calendar for some very special upcoming events that you won't want to miss, especially our 10th Annual Second Chance Fundraising Breakfast on April 24, 2018!

Elizabeth Jones Valderrama, MA, CVA
Executive Director

Dana's Story, In His Own Words

A participant in our Reentry program, Dana, was asked to share his story at an event on behalf of OAR earlier this month. You may have heard his story at our Breakfast in March. He elaborated on his story and with his permission, we would like to share his story with you all:

"Good Afternoon. My name is Dana. I was asked to speak to you today and tell a story. It's a story replete with shame, blame and guilt. A story still searching for a happy ending or at the very least, a positive turn and the beginning of hope once again. That story is my story. But I am not going to do that, at least not as the focus.

You see, there is a much bigger story that needs to be told. A story of selflessness,
determination, care and kindness. A story about a group of people who can only be described as heroes. I know a little something about heroes, as I am a veteran of the U.S. Air Force. The title of this story is OAR." Read More >

Do More 24

Save the date! Do More 24 is coming up on Thursday, June 8th! Do More 24 is the DC area's largest annual 24-hour online fundraiser, powered by United Way of the National Capital Area.

OAR is participating this year and needs your help in reaching our fundraising goal of $2,500! You can contribute to OAR now through June 8th via this link. We will also be posting to our social media about Do More 24 in the days leading up to the big day. Be sure to follow us on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn to stay connected!

Save the Date:
Second Chance Fundraising Breakfast 2018

You won't want to miss this! Plan to join us for next year's OAR's Second Chance Fundraising Breakfast! Mark your calendars now for Tuesday, April 24, 2018.

In 2018, we will be celebrating our 10th Annual Second Chance Fundraising Breakfast! This event has grown from about 150 guests in 2008 to nearly 600 guests in 2017. Expect the 2018 event to be better than ever, with a focus on sharing our participant's stories with you from over the years. For now, mark your calendars. RSVPs will open this Fall!

Exciting Team Updates

We have some exciting new staff updates to share with you! Two of OAR's long-time staff members have recently received promotions and are taking on new positions. Read about these outstanding team members below:
Katy Steinbruck Promoted to Deputy Director
Katy has been on the OAR team for 17 years! Katy was born and raised in Alexandria, Virginia, where she continues to live today. Katy has a degree in Psychology and certificate in the CENAPS model of relapse prevention as well as a post baccalaureate certificate in Substance Abuse Counseling. Katy is working on reinstating her Certified Substance Abuse Counseling license with the Virginia Board of Counseling which she will have by September 2017.

Prior to working at OAR, Katy worked at a long-term residential treatment program for single women, mothers with children and men who were transitioning back into the community from the Virginia Department of Corrections or who were referred from the then-active Richmond Drug Court. Since coming to OAR in October 2000, Katy has worked in various positions including Director of Volunteer Services, Director of Business Development, Director of Reentry Services, and Director of Programs.

Katie Farrell Promoted to Coordinator of Community Service
Katie has been on the OAR team for three years! Katie grew up in Niagara Falls, New York and attended Tiffin University in Tiffin, Ohio where she received her Bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice in Forensic Psychology. In September 2013, Katie joined OAR as an intern from The Washington Center for a semester. A few months later, she was hired as a full time Community Service Case Manager. In 2016, she was promoted to Senior Community Service Case Manager.

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.

Monday, June 5 at 6:30 pm
Wednesday, June 21 at 8:00 am
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
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=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/