



Strengthening Community Through Second Chances

Greetings!



Thanksgiving is just around the corner, and OAR is thankful to you, our supporters! We have has lots of wonderful upcoming events and news to share!

Project Christmas Angel is coming up next month, and we are so thankful to all the wonderful individuals and organizations that have donated gifts to our Toy Drive already! Thanks to all who have contributed. Hundreds of children of parents who are incarcerated will have gifts for the holidays thanks to you! Read more below about how you can get involved in Project Christmas Angel this year.

With the holidays comes the season of giving! #GivingTuesday takes place on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving, November 28. #GivingTuesday donations will go towards providing participants like "Victor," who you can read about below, with the resources and services they need to make a successful return home. Read more below about #GivingTuesday and how your support has changed "Victor's" life.

We at OAR are constantly reminded of how thankful we are for your support. You are truly changing the lives of our participants! Your support of our mission is always appreciated, especially at this time of the year. Happy Thanksgiving from all of us at OAR and I hope to see you bright and early at the [Arlington Turkey Trot](#) on Thanksgiving morning!

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

Elizabeth Jones Valderrama, MA, CVA
Executive Director



#GivingTuesday



Black Friday. Cyber Monday.

#GIVINGTUESDAY™

November 28, 2017



"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted" - Aesop

Show your acts of kindness this year on [#GivingTuesday](#) by supporting OAR! This year on Tuesday, November 28, 2017, kick off the charitable season and celebrate a day of giving with OAR.

Our goal is to raise \$2,500 which will cover the cost of bringing holiday gifts to hundreds of children of parents who are incarcerated. Many of these gifts are hand-delivered by volunteers, but some of the kids live outside of our delivery area so their packages need to be mailed. Without this support, the children could not receive a holiday gift from their parent. You are helping to bridge the gap between a parent and child who cannot be together this holiday season!

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has also teamed up with Facebook to match up to \$50,000 (per organization) of donations made on Facebook to nonprofits and charities! They have donated \$2 million of their funds to matching donations on Facebook and the match will start at 8 AM EST (5 AM PST) on #GivingTuesday, so we encourage you to donate through our [Facebook page](#) when the match starts!

Learn more about #GivingTuesday [HERE](#).



Amazon Smile: You Shop, Amazon Donates

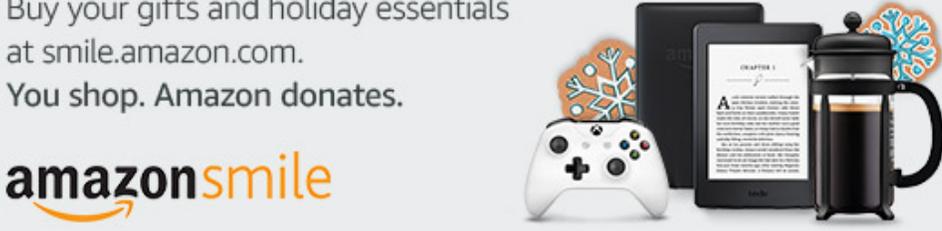


Looking for a way to give back to your favorite charities and organizations at [no](#)

cost to you? Sounds too good to be true, right? Well lucky for you, [AmazonSmile](#) has made it possible for you to support your favorite charitable organizations at no extra cost to you! When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](#), you'll find the exact same low prices and wide variety of selections as Amazon.com, just with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of your purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. OAR is one of the organizations that you can choose when you shop at AmazonSmile and we encourage all of our supporters to consider using AmazonSmile to make your purchases! Bookmark [this link](#) and use AmazonSmile as you shop for everyone on your gift list this holiday so all your purchases will benefit OAR at no extra cost to you!

Support us when you shop this holiday season

Buy your gifts and holiday essentials at [smile.amazon.com](#).
You shop. Amazon donates.



amazonsmile



Volunteer Spotlight



Barbara Lowrey, a dedicated volunteer at OAR, is a busy person even in retirement. A true local, Barbara attended Bishop O'Connell High school, and is a long-time resident of Alexandria. She has two grown children and five grandsons and spent her career as an economist at the Federal Reserve. As an active member in the community, Barbara plays the flute with the New Horizons Band, sings in the Northern Virginia Community College Chorus, and is active on local boards. Barbara notes "I have a wide variety of activities in retirement...OAR is my social justice outreach." She says that she became compelled to OAR's mission after reading "The New Jim Crow" by Michelle Alexander.

"Ms. Barb has been assisting the community service team at OAR the last couple of months, helping us reach out to participants who have not yet attended an intake appointment to begin their community service hours. She is willing to complete any and all tasks given to her, which is so appreciated, since much of the work she does is purely administrative. She is clearly dedicated to OAR's mission and understands the importance of the administrative work. There has been a very clear influx of community service participants attending intake appointments thanks to Ms. Barb's outreach! In addition, Ms. Barb brings a wonderful attitude and amazing personality to OAR" says Katie Farrell, Community Service Coordinator.

We want to give our thanks to volunteers like Barbara that are dedicated to both our mission and our participants! OAR values our volunteers dearly and we wouldn't be the same without them!



A Participant Story: "Victor"

"Victor" (*name changed to protect privacy*) is a young, incredibly smart man whose life changed when he was incarcerated at age 20. He was recently released and is now 28 years old. Our Reentry team took Victor to the Alexandria campus of Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) so that he could speak with an Academic Advisor about registering for classes. The day before, one of OAR's Reentry Specialists spent a couple of hours with Victor talking him through the process of attending college. Victor had previously completed a series of assessments, so the team knew the kinds of jobs he was best suited for and found Associates degrees that would be a good fit. After visiting the Alexandria campus of NOVA and speaking with an Academic Advisor, he registered for the upcoming term! He stated, "No one has encouraged me like this before." He was very excited after his meeting with the Advisor and said, "That was a most successful meeting," and he thanked OAR for helping him to "achieve more today than I have in a week." Thanks to your support, we can help others like Victor to realize their dreams and reach their goals!



Upcoming Events

Toy Drive

October 2017 - December 2017

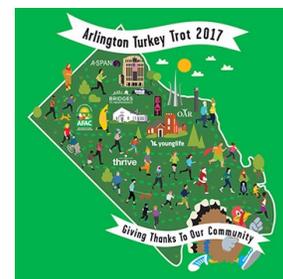
Our Annual Toy Drive is extending into the month of November! Each year, OAR hosts a community-wide Toy Drive to collect new, donated toys and holiday gifts for children of incarcerated parents. Donation boxes are located throughout the community and you can donate via our [Amazon Wishlist](#) as well! [For more information please visit our website.](#)



Arlington Turkey Trot

Thursday, November 23, 2017 (Thanksgiving Day)

OAR is a beneficiary organization for this year's event, so your registration will help to support OAR, as well as five other local nonprofit organizations. Registration has closed, so we hope you already secured your spot! Visit the [Turkey Trot website](#) for additional information.



Giving Tuesday

Tuesday, November 28, 2017

After Black Friday and Cyber Monday comes [Giving Tuesday](#), a global day of giving back to your favorite charities celebrating giving and philanthropy. As you plan your Giving Tuesday donations, please consider making a contribution to OAR! For more information on how OAR is getting involved with Giving Tuesday click [here](#).

#GIVING
TUESDAY

Project Christmas Angel

Wednesday, December 13, 2017

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. You can now RSVP for this event [here](#). For more information, please visit our [website](#), or 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.



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.

There are only two more tours left for this year!

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 participants
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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