Greetings!

It's the end of October, which means that Fall is in full swing. Leaves are changing, temperatures are cooling, and pumpkin spice fills the air. One thing that remains constant in this season of change is the need to be on the journey with our participants as they transition back home after incarceration or complete community service hours. OAR is able to do this because of you.

Our need for your support continues. Read more below about how you can stay connected with us, how to help with Project Christmas Angel, and learn more about why hiring individuals with previous charges is so critical.

Thank you for being on this journey with us!

Elizabeth Jones Valderrama, MA, CVA
Executive Director

Join Us for a Tour

Did you know that OAR holds free one-hour Tours twice per month? These Tours are open to the public and are a fabulous introduction to our organization and mission. Guests will get to meet members of the OAR team, see our office, and hear about all of OAR's programs in detail. Upcoming Tour dates are November 9th at 8:00am and November 15th at 12:00pm. Click HERE to view more dates or to register to attend.

Toy Donations Needed for Project Christmas Angel

Project Christmas Angel is scheduled for
Wednesday, December 14, 2016 from 6:30-9:00pm in Arlington! This is OAR’s annual event where we, on behalf of the community, provide holiday gifts to children of incarcerated and recently released parents. Mark your calendars, and we will send out more details about this event soon. The RSVP form will be active on our website in mid-November, so be sure to sign up!

Last year, we distributed nearly 1,200 gifts for 395 children ages newborn to 18. We anticipate a greater need this year, and we need your help! **Gifts for teens** are especially needed! We have an [Amazon wish list](#) with gift ideas for teens, and we also accept donations of gift cards. Denominations of $20-$25 to places such as Target and Amazon are most needed. Donations can be shipped to us at 1400 N Uhle St, Suite 704, Arlington, VA 22201 or dropped at our office during business hours.

**Volunteers are also needed** to assist with administrative support prior to the event, including making phone calls to the children's guardians and entering information in our database. Volunteer hours are flexible and include weekday evenings. Please contact **Heather Pritchett** for more details at hpritchett@oaronline.org or 703-228-7435.

More information can be found on our website about Project Christmas Angel.

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**OAR Featured on Radio Show**

OAR was recently featured on the radio show *You're Hired* to highlight the importance and the benefits of employing individuals with criminal histories. OAR Executive Director, Elizabeth Jones Valderrama, and former OAR participant, Adryann, discuss why this issue is important for individuals, as well as the community. Also on the show was Rob Krupicka, owner of Sugar Shack Donuts, who hires individuals with prior convictions.

Listen to the show for free online [here](#).

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**Success for "Sing Out for Second Chances"**

OAR hosted the first annual *Sing Out for Second Chances* on Saturday, October 15th. Five local faith-based choirs performed, including Macedonia Baptist Church, Mount Zion Baptist Church (pictured), Our Lady Queen of Peace, Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill Episcopal Church, and Third Baptist Church. Two former OAR participants also shared their personal stories about the power of second chances. The event **raised over $2,000** for OAR's programs and awareness of
OAR's services and impact. We look forward to hosting this event again in 2017! For more photos from the event, visit us on Facebook.

Using "People First Language"

Maybe you have noticed some changes in the language OAR is using when referring to individuals participating in our programs. OAR has made the shift to using "people first language". This is an effort aimed at avoiding perceived and subconscious bias towards particular groups of individuals, and many in the criminal justice field are making this shift. Some of the changes you will see in OAR’s language:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Formerly Used Language</th>
<th>People First Language</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clients</td>
<td>Participants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juveniles</td>
<td>Youth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ex-offenders</td>
<td>Individuals previously incarcerated</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inmates</td>
<td>Individuals currently incarcerated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minorities</td>
<td>People/communities of color</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substance abuse</td>
<td>Substance use</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We hope you will join us in making this important shift. More information can be found about people first language [here](#) and more examples can be found [here](#).

Join Our Mobile Action Network

Join OAR’s Mobile Action Network! We send out important updates and notifications via text message to your cell phone. We send just one text per month, so we promise not to flood your inbox. This is a great way to stay in touch with what's happening at OAR - directly on your cell phone!

[Sign up to receive monthly text messages here.](#)

Support OAR

1. Make a monetary donation to OAR by clicking [http://oaronline.org/donate-now/](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](mailto: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/](http://oaronline.org/oar-tours-upcoming-events/)

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**OAR: Strengthening Community Through Second Chances**

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Arlington, VA 22201  
703-228-7030  
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Join Our Mailing List