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| **A Monthly Update from Our Executive Director** |

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| \*{{First Name}}\*, I hope you had a safe few weeks and that the month of December brings you lots of joy. We are so grateful and thankful that you have remained by our side. Thank you for being a part of this amazing family. We have so much to be thankful for at OAR. All of our team members have remained healthy and dedicated to the mission, and just as importantly thanks to your support we have been able to continue to put the participants first. The work of OAR has been honored and lifted up since we have last been in touch. We had the distinct honor to be [featured](https://www.arlingtonmagazine.com/race-and-rebuilding/6/) in Arlington Magazine and selected as the winner of the [EXCEL Award](https://www.nonprofitadvancement.org/competition-events/excel-award/) by the Center for Nonprofit Advancement. We were also again named “[one of the best nonprofits](https://www.oaronline.org/archives/7516)” by the Catalogue for Philanthropy Greater Washington Area. I’m excited to introduce you to Ronald, whose story you can read below. We have so much to share with you, so please keep reading below. Your support has been so crucial, especially during this time, and we are so thankful. The OAR team is wishing you and your loved ones all the best. Please stay safe and warm! Gracias,  |

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| Elizabeth Jones Valderrama, MA, CVA | [Pronouns: she, her, hers](https://www.mypronouns.org/what-and-why)Executive Director |

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| **New and Improved Project Winter Cheer** |

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| [**Project Winter Cheer (PWC)**](https://www.oaronline.org/archives/7719)program supports children and families impacted by incarceration during the holiday season. It is so important to us that family relationships are maintained while a parent is incarcerated and after their release. If you have not already read our update about PWC this year, please [**click here**](https://www.oaronline.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Project-Winter-Cheer-2020-Email-Update-1.html). This pandemic has allowed us to reimagine this beloved project and we are so pleased with 2020's PWC. We will be providing $50 holiday gift cards for each child and along with their gift cards, each child will also receive a handwritten letter from their parent to remind them that even though they are not able to physically spend the holidays together, they are always keeping them in mind. Your support will help us purchase gift cards for each child, purchase any supplies needed for mailing, and will also help us cover the mailing costs to send all of the gift cards to each family. There are many ways in which you can support Project Winter Cheer and we hope that you join us in supporting these children and families for the holidays. If you have any questions about Project Winter Cheer, please contact Stephannie Ku at **sku@oaronline.org**or 703-228-7132.  [**Click here to find out how to support OAR's Project Winter Cheer 2020**](https://www.oaronline.org/archives/7719) |

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| “Thank y’all so much to help my kids in a time of need like this. This is such a great help to my kids and a little pressure off my loved one’s back who needs help while I am in a place like this getting my self in order.” -A note to you from a parent incarcerated in the Arlington County Detention Facility on what Project Winter Cheer means to them and their family. |

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| **Meet "Ronald"\*** |

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| Ronald was one of the individuals that were released early from the Arlington County Detention Facility (ACDF) due to the pandemic back in March. Previously, he had been in and out of incarceration over the last few years and each time he was released, he struggled with staying positive and having a concrete support system to help him get in touch with the services and assistance he needed. Since his most recent release in March, Ronald has been working extremely hard with OAR on his reentry into the community as well as be in touch with their family and support system. Staying in touch with OAR participants during this pandemic has been vital. With the help and support of the community, we have been able to provide laptops to participants, including Ronald, so that they can stay connected to all the services they need. With a new laptop and internet services paid by OAR, Ronald connected with an OAR team member for his appointments and joined OAR's virtual employment program and support group. Ronald has been connecting with a job coach each week to work on interview skills, look for jobs that best suit his skillset, submits applications, applies for housing and more. Through his determination and hard work, Ronald secured two jobs after his release and is continuously looking for and interviewing for new jobs to support his financial needs. His job coach stated that "Ronald's focus this time around is just amazing and he constantly expresses that it is because of OAR's support." When asked about his reentry experience so far, Ronald told an OAR team member, "this has been the best reentry I've ever had so far and that's thanks to OAR." Your support, especially during this time is so crucial to OAR participants and their families. Thank you for being on this journey with us.  To support OAR's Reentry and Emergency Services needs, visit [**https://bit.ly/oarreentrywishlist**](https://bit.ly/oarreentrywishlist).  \*Name changed to protect the privacy of the participant. The photo is a stock photo and not necessarily representative of the participant. [*Click here*](https://www.oaronline.org/about-us/history-overview) to learn more about OAR's Ethical Storytelling policy.  |

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| **Thank You for Being a Part of OAR's Giving Tuesday 2020** |

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| Thank you to all who supported OAR for [**Giving Tuesday**](https://www.givelocaltogether.org/team/oar) this year! We raised over $1,500 in support of [**OAR's Project Winter Cheer**](https://www.oaronline.org/archives/7719) program. Thanks to you, children who have a parent incarcerated locally or have been recently released will receive a $50 gift card along with a handwritten letter from their parent for this holiday season. You are making a direct impact on the lives of these children and their families. If you were not able to participate in Giving Tuesday this year and still want a chance to give back to your community, you can still support OAR's Project Winter Cheer by donating on our website [**here**](https://www.oaronline.org/children-family-projects-2020-donation-form). Thank you for making a difference in the lives of OAR participants and their families.  |

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| **Anti-Racism, Racial Justice, and Liberation Virtual Cohorts Starting in January 2021** |

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| OAR's 3-Month Anti-Racism, Racial Justice, and Liberation Virtual Cohorts include a curriculum focusing on racial justice and anti-racism. Cohorts are separated between BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) and WP (White People). We have concluded our first set of cohorts that took place from September 2020 - November 2020 and with feedback from the cohort participants we have shaped the upcoming cohorts that will take place in 2021. The January 2021 - March 2021 cohorts will take place for BIPOC on Thursdays from 1-4pm and the WP cohort will take place on Mondays from 6-9pm. Having one cohort for each group allows for people to connect with more individuals, who are committed to anti-racism, and creates a larger network and larger support system for cohort participants to reach racial justice and liberation.  Also we will continue to offer scholarships for individuals formerly incarcerated and personnel (sworn and civilian) in Law Enforcement, Corrections, Court and Judicial Services, Fire and Rescue, Public Safety Communications and Emergency Management.  To participate in these virtual cohorts, you must have a working computer/laptop device with a video camera. If you are interested in participating in one of these upcoming cohorts, you must fill out the application online on the OAR website. If you are chosen to participate in one of the cohorts, the date, time, and payment invoice will be provided to you. If you have any questions or would like to sponsor a few people, please email racialjustice@oaronline.org.  [**Click here to learn more and apply**](https://www.oaronline.org/racialjusticecohort) |

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| **Recommended Reads from OAR's Racial Justice Library** |

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| The recommended read for this month is Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption, by Bryan Stevenson. This book is a powerful true story about the potential for mercy to redeem us, and a clarion call to fix our broken system of justice—from one of the most brilliant and influential lawyers of our time. Bryan Stevenson was a young lawyer when he founded the Equal Justice Initiative, a legal practice dedicated to defending those most desperate and in need: the poor, the wrongly condemned, and women and children trapped in the farthest reaches of our criminal justice system. One of his first cases was that of Walter McMillian, a young man who was sentenced to die for a notorious murder he insisted he didn’t commit. The case drew Bryan into a tangle of conspiracy, political machination, and legal brinksmanship—and transformed his understanding of mercy and justice forever. Just Mercy is at once an unforgettable account of an idealistic, gifted young lawyer’s coming of age, a moving window into the lives of those he has defended, and an inspiring argument for compassion in the pursuit of true justice. This book can be purchased from [Harambee Books (VA)](https://harambeebooks.org/), [Mahogany Books (DC)](https://www.mahoganybooks.com/), [Loyalty Bookstores (DC)](https://bookshop.org/shop/loyalty), [Solid State Books (DC)](https://www.solidstatebooksdc.com/), or from [Everyone's Place (MD)](https://aalbc.com/bookstores/store.php?store_name=Everyone%26rsquo%3Bs+Place), local Black-owned bookstores. Visit their websites for more anti-racist reading recommendations!**Finished reading?** We'd love for you to share your thoughts with us! Mail us at racialjustice@oaronline.org.   |

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| **OAR News Features** |

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| * OAR named "one of the best nonprofits" in the D.C. Metro area by the Catalogue for Philanthropy. Read our full press release on our website [**here**](https://www.oaronline.org/archives/7516).
* OAR is proud to announce that we were named as one of the gift recipients for Amazon's $1 million donation to organizations that are advancing the cause of racial equity and community empowerment. Read more on Amazon's blog post where OAR is featured [**here**](https://www.aboutamazon.com/news/community/amazon-donates-9-million-to-organizations-in-arlington-region).
* OAR's Executive Director Elizabeth Jones Valderrama was recognized by the Center for Nonprofit Advancement as the 2020 EXCEL Award Winner for outstanding nonprofit leadership. Read more on the Center's website where OAR is featured [**here**](https://www.nonprofitadvancement.org/competition-events/excel-award/).
* OAR's Executive Director Elizabeth Jones Valderrama's interview about "Race and Rebuilding" in the community was featured in Arlington Magazine. Read the full interview on the Arlington Magazine website [**here**](https://www.arlingtonmagazine.com/race-and-rebuilding/6/).
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| **Upcoming Events** |

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| **Free One-Hour Tour of OAR's Mission \*VIRTUAL\*** Want to learn more about us? Join us for a free one-hour virtual tour of our mission via video conference! Guests will hear about OAR's programs and services from the team members who are working in the programs and hear participant stories. We promise to end on time. To register for one of the  tour dates below or to check out additional tour dates, [click here](http://bit.ly/tourregis) or contact Stephannie Ku at sku@oaronline.org.* **Wednesday, December 16, 2020, 2:00pm – 3:00pm**
* **Monday, December 21, 2020, 12:00pm – 1:00pm**
* **Thursday, January 7, 2021, 6:30pm - 7:30pm**
* **Wednesday, January 20, 2021, 2:00pm - 3:00pm**
* **Wednesday, February 3, 2021, 6:30pm - 7:30pm**
* **Wednesday, February 17, 2021, 12:00pm - 1:00pm**

**Project Winter Cheer, November 2020 - January 2021** OAR’s Project Winter Cheer program supports children and families impacted by incarceration for the holiday season. Each child participating in this program will receive a $50 holiday gift card along with a handwritten letter from their parent to remind them that even though they are not able to physically spend the holidays together, they are always keeping them in mind. [Click here](https://www.oaronline.org/archives/7719) to find out how you can support OAR's Project Winter cheer this year. If you have any questions or would like to get involved in any way contact Stephannie Ku at sku@oaronline.org.  **Second Chance Fundraising Breakfast (Virtual), April 2021** Save the date for OAR's Annual Virtual Second Chance Fundraising Virtual Breakfast in April 2021! We will have more information regarding this event soon, stay tuned.  |

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| **Interested in Volunteering with OAR?** |

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| **Court Volunteers (In-Person)**We are looking for volunteers who will go to to the Arlington County General District Court and Circuit Court sessions on a weekly basis every Tuesday and Friday between the hours of 9am to 5pm to represent OAR for Community Service. All information needed will be provided for you and you will receive training from an OAR team member and will have the opportunity to shadow them in Court. If you are available for any or or all of these days and interested in learning more about this opportunity, please email Stephannie Ku at sku@oaronline.org.  **American Sign Language (ASL) Facilitators (Virtual)**We are looking for several American Sign Language (ASL) Facilitators to do virtual course for residents of Arlington County Detention Facility. You must have access to the internet and a computer with a webcam. If you are interested in learning more about this volunteer opportunity, please email Stephannie Ku at sku@oaronline.org.  **Spanish Language for English Speakers Facilitators (Virtual)**We are looking for several Spanish Language for English Speakers Facilitators to do virtual course for residents of Arlington County Detention Facility. You must have access to the internet and a  computer with a webcam. If you are interested in learning more about this volunteer opportunity, please email Stephannie Ku at sku@oaronline.org.  **Data Entry Volunteers (Virtual)**Volunteer to help OAR with database management and data entry. Having access to a computer/laptop/internet and the ability to connect over email and Zoom is required for this opportunity. If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity email Stephannie Ku at sku@oaronline.org.  **Volunteers with Clinical Backgrounds (Virtual)**Looking for volunteers with experience in the clinical field or have a clinical background to help support participants virtually. If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity email Stephannie Ku at sku@oaronline.org.   **Faith Communities- Add OAR Updates in Your Weekly News Bulletin/Communications (Virtual)**Want to receive weekly email updates from OAR to include in your new bulletins or communications? If so, please contact Stephannie Ku at sku@oaronline.org.  **Social Media Advocates/"Voluntweeters" (Virtual)**Volunteer to be a social media advocate or "voluntweet" for OAR! Be an advocate for OAR's mission, for policies and laws that benefit participants, and for racial justice through social media and online by re-tweeting, sharing our posts, mentioning OAR on social media writing to law makers, and more. Visit OAR's official [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/OARJustice/), [Twitter](https://twitter.com/oarjustice), [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/oarjustice/?hl=en), [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/oar-arlington), and [Vimeo](https://vimeo.com/oartoday) pages to help share and spread the word of our mission or email Stephannie Ku at sku@oaronline.org if you have any questions. **Special Event/On-Call Volunteers (Virtual and In-Person)**Volunteer to help out with special events and serve as an on-call volunteer when needed. You will be added to a special email/text list when we have a volunteer need or opportunity come up including speaking engagements, helping staff an OAR table at a fair, etc. Please contact Stephannie Ku at sku@oaronline.org if you are interested.  |

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| **COVID-19 Health & Safety Resources/Updates - Stay Informed!** |

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| We want and encourage our community to stay informed and up-to-date with all of the latest health and safety guidelines and resources regarding the COVID-19 outbreak to prevent the spread of this virus and to keep everyone safe and thriving. Please feel free to share with your family and friends.  **General Resources:*** Center For Disease Control - <https://www.cdc.gov/>
* Virginia Department of Health - <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/>
* Governor of Virginia - <https://www.virginia.gov/coronavirus-updates/>

**Local Resources:****City of Alexandria*** Alexandria Coronavirus Resources - <https://www.alexandriava.gov/Coronavirus>
* Sign up to receive COVID-19 updates via [Alexandria eNews](https://member.everbridge.net/index/1332612387832027#/signup)
* ACPS Updates - [https://www.acps.k12.va.us/acps-at-home](https://www.acps.k12.va.us/acps-at-home%20)

**Arlington County*** Arlington Coronavirus Resources - <https://health.arlingtonva.us/covid-19-coronavirus-updates/>
* APS Updates for Parents - <https://www.apsva.us/coronavirus-covid-19-updates/>

**City of Falls Church*** Falls Church Coronavirus Resources - <https://www.fallschurchva.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx>
* Sign up to receive daily COVID-19 updates from the [City of Falls Church Office of Communications](http://www.fallschurchva.gov/250/Communications-Public-Information)
* FCPS Updates - <https://www.fcps.edu/blog/talking-children-about-coronavirus>
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| **Support OAR** |

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| 1. Make a monetary donation to OAR by clicking [here](https://www.oaronline.org/donate/donate-now)
2. Donate [Target](https://www.target.com/c/gift-cards/-/N-5xsxu) and/or [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com/gift-cards/b?ie=UTF8&node=2238192011) gift cards in increments of $10 each for OAR participants
3. Shop on our Amazing Wish List: [OAR's Amazon Wish List](https://bit.ly/oarreentrywishlist)
4. Donate through United Way designation #8078 (additional fees by UW are applied)
5. Donate through CFC designation #26226 (additional fees by CFC are applied)
6. Shop on Amazon Smile and choose OAR as the beneficiary using this link <http://amzn.to/OARsmile>
7. Follow us @OARJustice
8. Attend a free 1-hour virtual OAR Tour or an OAR Event and bring your friends: <http://oaronline.org/oar-tours-upcoming-events/>
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| **More About OAR** |

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| OAR is a community-based nonprofit which envisions a safe and thriving community where those impacted by the legal system enjoy equal civil and human rights. Through our upstream work, we are confronting and dismantling racism in the legal system and across all systems. Our downstream work allows us to be on the journey with individuals of all genders returning to the community from incarceration and support their families in the homecoming process. And we offer alternative sentencing options through community service to youth and adults to avoid the trauma of incarceration and instead remain a part of helping the community thrive. |

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| **Our Contact Information**\*{{Organization Name}}\*\*{{Organization Address}}\*\*{{Organization Phone}}\*\*{{Organization Website}}\*\*{{Unsubscribe}}\* |

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| **Follow OAR on Social Media!** |

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| Facebook | Twitter | Instagram | LinkedIn | YouTube | Vimeo |

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| **OAR Office Hours****Monday - Friday 9:30am-4:30pm** |

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