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| **An Update from Our Executive Director** |

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| \*{{First Name}}\*, Welcome to August. How have you been doing? At OAR things have continued to move. The pandemic required us to make some shifts in our program delivery and some difficult, but appropriate decisions. As you can imagine participants needs increased and with the economic uncertainty funding decreased for us from several sources. We originally budgeted $80,000 for fiscal year 2020 (FY2020) to assist participants returning home and their families. Instead, we were able to spend almost $145,000.  In addition to early releases, the pandemic caused OAR participants to lose their jobs or have a decrease in hours, due to their employers needing to close with no options for remote work or lack of child care with the schools closing among others. We also know of several who have a compromised immune system and could not risk the possibility of infection. And then there were those who themselves or their loved ones were infected by the virus, causing health issues and unexpected medical bills. For too many, this will be the reality for several more months or possibly years. Thanks to your support we were able to honor the commitment to participants and help with rental assistance, eviction prevention, food support, transportation, phones and data, utility bills, clothing, laptops, reusable masks, medical bills, and anything else participants and their families needed to stay afloat. Like most nonprofits, personnel costs are the highest expenses in the budget, so to continue on the journey with participants we had to reduce our team.  We are grateful to each of the team members who are no longer on staff for their contributions. Our team continues to be here for the participants and the community. With the adjustments we made for FY2020 and FY2021 we can stay committed to this mission for years to come. Please visit the [website](https://www.oaronline.org/about-us/staff) to learn more about our team. With them as well as so many volunteers who have been helping, we are making it work.  There is so much more in this enewsletter, please continue reading to learn about our Anti-Racism and Racial Justice three-month virtual learning cohorts, recent press releases, books we invite you to join us in reading, opportunities to get involved, and to learn about Caroline, a community service participant.  Thank you for your continued support of OAR during these unprecedented times. We hope that you stay safe and as healthy as possible.  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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| **Three-Month Anti-Racism and Racial Justice Virtual Cohorts** |

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| OAR is launching three-month virtual cohorts focusing on racial justice and anti-racism. Cohorts will be held from September 2020 – November 2020, January 2021 – March 2021, and April 2021 – June 2021. To participate in these virtual cohorts, you must have a working computer/laptop device with a video camera. If you are interested in participating, you must fill out the application online on the OAR website (link below). Space is limited to up to 25 people per cohort. If you are chosen to participate in one of the cohorts, the date, time, and payment invoice will be provided to you. Our goal is to be able to continue to provide scholarships to returning citizens and those working in the criminal legal system. You can help by donating [here](http://bit.ly/oardonate). If you have any questions, please email racialjustice@oaronline.org.  [**Click here to learn more and apply**](https://www.oaronline.org/racialjusticecohort)[**Click here to donate to provide scholarships**](http://bit.ly/oardonate) |

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| **Meet "Caroline"\*** |

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| Caroline was ordered to complete 150 hours of community service in lieu of court costs. With OAR's help and support, she was quickly able to find a site to complete her hours. Caroline grew a passion for volunteering once she started, and within just four months, she completed all 150 hours and successfully finished OAR's Community Service Program. Caroline says that through her community service, she believes she’s made a huge impact on her community and has learned so much throughout the process. She says that, “serving organizations who serve people in need is a better lesson than just paying a fine,” and it had a significant influence on her own life as well. Caroline told OAR that she is now finishing up with her probation and is moving to be with her family, where she will continue her journey and look for new volunteer opportunities. \*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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| **Use Amazon Smile to Support OAR** |

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| Use Amazon Smile to do your online shopping and support OAR at the same time! When you use this link ([**http://amzn.to/OARsmile**](http://amzn.to/OARsmile)) to shop on Amazon Smile, a portion of your total purchase cost will be donated to OAR at no extra cost to you. While you're doing your shopping on Amazon Smile, you can also check out [**OAR's Reentry Amazon Wishlist**](https://bit.ly/oarreentrywishlist) to donate items most needed for participants returning back to the community from incarceration. Some of our higher priority donation needs included on our Amazon Wishlist are men's shoes, backpacks, t-shirts, shorts, and travel-sized toiletry items.  |

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

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| Here are a list of some books in OAR's Racial Justice Library that the OAR team has been reading these past few months. These books are not only great reads, but are important resources in learning more about anti-racism and racial justice. All of the books below can be purchased from [Mahogany Books](https://www.mahoganybooks.com/), or from [Loyalty Bookstores](https://bookshop.org/shop/loyalty), two Black-owned bookstores located in Washington, D.C. Visit their websites for more anti-racist reading recommendations! The list includes: * [White Fragility: Why it's so hard for white people to talk about racism](https://www.mahoganybooks.com/9780807047415), by Robin DiAngelo
* [So You Want to Talk About Race](https://www.mahoganybooks.com/9781580056779), by Ijeoma Oluo
* [Biased: Uncovering the Hidden Prejudice That Shapes What We See, Think, and Do](https://bookshop.org/books/biased-uncovering-the-hidden-prejudice-that-shapes-what-we-see-think-and-do/9780735224957), by Jennifer Eberhard
* [The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness](https://www.mahoganybooks.com/9781620975459), by Michelle Alexander
* [Stamped from the Beginning](https://www.mahoganybooks.com/9781568584638), by Ibram X. Kendi
* [How to Be an Antiracist](https://www.mahoganybooks.com/9780525509288), by Ibram X. Kendi

 **Finished reading?** We'd love for you to share your thoughts with us! Sign up for an [upcoming OAR Community Chat](https://bit.ly/OARcommunitychat) or email racialjustice@oaronline.org and tell us more.  |

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| **Introducing: Buy a Neighbor School Supplies** |

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| For the last couple of years your generosity has allowed us to host Project Backpack, an annual in person back-to-school drive. This year, as a result of the pandemic, we are changing it up and instead of hosting our own individual drive, OAR reached out to partner with other local organizations which also hosted their own drives. So in the spirit of collectiveness we are doing it all together with the Arlington Foster Care/Adoption Program, AHC Inc., APAH, A-SPAN, Bonder & Amanda Johnson Community Development Corporation, Bridges to Independence, Edu-Futuro, and Volunteer Arlington. The “[**Buy A Neighbor School Supplies**](https://volunteer.leadercenter.org/buy-neighbor-school-supplies-1)” program is a new fundraising initiative that will support children and families in need of school supplies and resources for the upcoming 2020-2021 academic school year. For as little as $10, community members can make a significant difference. All donations can be made online on the [Volunteer Arlington website](https://volunteer.leadercenter.org/buy-neighbor-school-supplies-1). Your donations will be used to help each participating organization distribute gift cards, allowing the children and families in their respective programs to safely purchase their own school supplies and resources. For more information about "Buy A Neighbor School Supplies," visit our website [**here**](https://www.oaronline.org/buy-a-neighbor-school-supplies).  [**Click here to make a donation on the Volunteer Arlington website**](https://volunteer.leadercenter.org/buy-neighbor-school-supplies-1)  |

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| **Recent Press Releases/Announcements** |

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| **Click the links below to read OAR's latest press releases and announcements:** * [OAR Announces Receipt of Cafritz Foundation Grant](https://www.oaronline.org/archives/7595)
* [VA State Affirms Value of Prison Reentry Programs](https://www.oaronline.org/archives/7583)
* [Volunteer Arlington Asks Community To “Buy A Neighbor School Supplies”](https://www.arlnow.com/2020/08/05/volunteer-arlington-asks-community-to-buy-a-neighbor-school-supplies/)
* [Arlington Launches Review of Police Policies and Practices](https://newsroom.arlingtonva.us/release/arlington-launches-review-of-police-policies-practices/)
* [Statement of Solidarity from Arlington’s Safety Net Nonprofits](https://www.oaronline.org/archives/7522)
* [OAR Named “One of the Best Nonprofits” in The Washington Area by The Catalogue for Philanthropy](https://www.oaronline.org/archives/7516)
* ["WE CAN’T BREATHE" OAR Executive Director Elizabeth Jones Valderrama](https://www.oaronline.org/archives/7463)

[Issues Statement on Deaths by Racism](https://www.oaronline.org/archives/7463)* [OAR Selected as a Finalist for Best NonProfit Honor by the Arlington Chamber of Commerce](https://www.oaronline.org/archives/7459)

 You can read all of OAR's latest press releases and announcements online at our website [*here*](https://www.oaronline.org/news-events/announcements).  |

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| **Upcoming Events** |

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|   **2020 Census** OAR has partnered with Arlington County and the City of Alexandria to ensure an accurate count in the 2020 Census. Help us get out the count! [Click here](https://my2020census.gov/) to learn more about the 2020 Census and to complete the questionnaire. Be sure to tell everyone. **Free One-Hour Tour of OAR's Mission \*VIRTUAL\*** Want to learn more about us? Join us for a free one-hour 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, August 19, 2020, 6:30pm**
* **Wednesday, September 9, 2020, 12:00pm**
* **Wednesday, October 21, 2020, 12:00pm**

 **OAR Community Chat \*VIRTUAL\*** **Tuesday, September 1, 2020, 6:00pm – 7:00pm** Join OAR for a virtual Community Chat session, held on the first Tuesday of each month. During these one-hour Community Chats you will get the unique chance to learn more about OAR’s mission, programs, and get to hang out and chat with OAR’s Executive Director Elizabeth Jones Valderrama and Deputy Director Katy Steinbruck. OAR Community Chats will take place virtually via phone or video conferencing. Registration is required in order to receive the information to join the chat. To register for this or the additional dates and times below, [click here](https://www.oaronline.org/oar-community-chats). * **Tuesday, October 6, 2020, 12:00pm - 1:00pm**
* **Wednesday, November 4, 2020, 6:00pm - 7:00pm \***Please note this meeting is NOT on a Tuesday\*

 **Give 8/28** **Friday, August 28, 2020, All Day** Save the date for [Give 8/28](https://www.give828.org/giving-events/ybgb20)! Give 8/28, promoted by the Young, Black, & Giving Back Institute (YBGB), is a giving day specifically for black-led and black-benefitting nonprofit organizations, held all day long on August 28th, 2020. The current movement for racial justice highlights the importance of investing in the leaders working directly in our communities. OAR is proud to announce that we will be participating in Give 8/28 this year! Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more communication on our website and social media about how you can support OAR for Give 8/28.  |

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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 assist OAR Community Service participants. All information needed will be provided for you, you will receive training from an OAR team member and will have the opportunity to shadow OAR in Court. If you are available for any or all of these days and interested in learning more about this 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 offer a virtual course for residents of Arlington County Detention Facility. You must have access to the internet and a  computer with a webcam. Currently the class is on Fridays from 9:00am to 10:15am. 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. You need access to a computer/laptop/internet and the ability to connect over email and Zoom 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)** We are looking for volunteers with experience in the clinical field or who 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)** Do you want to receive weekly email updates from OAR to include in your news 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 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 about 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 and will hear from us 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 and/or Amazon gift cards in increments of $10 each for OAR participants
3. Shop on our Amazon 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. Donate to sponsor participants in virtual anti-racism and racial justice cohorts online [here](http://bit.ly/oardonate)
7. Attend a free 1-hour virtual OAR Tour or an OAR Event and bring your friends: <http://oaronline.org/oar-tours-upcoming-events/>
8. Follow us @OARJustice
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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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