



An Update from Our Executive Director

{{First Name}},

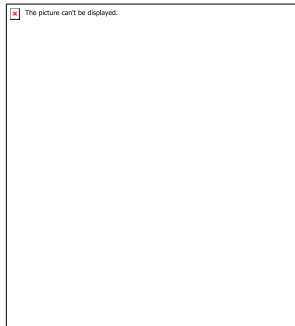
We hope July brought you an abundance of joy and love. Thanks to your crucial support during this time, we can continue to put the participants and their families first. I'm excited to introduce you to Theodore, whose story you can read below. He is one of the many OAR participants whom we have stayed on the journey through these unprecedented times.

As always there are a number of ways in which you can continue to support and get involved with OAR. OAR is currently hosting a couple of fundraisers. Please see more about OAR's Community Thrives fundraiser, Project Connection, Project Backpack, and Buy A Neighbor School Supplies below.

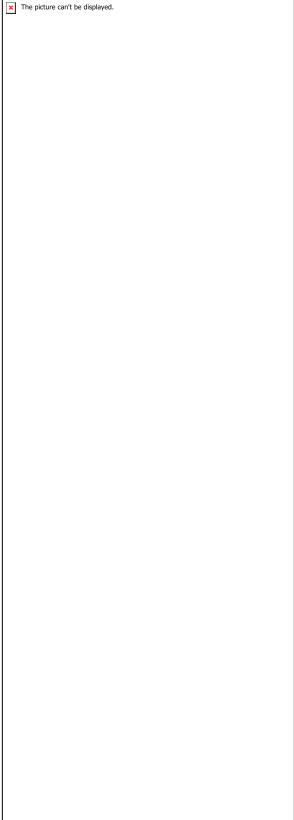
We are still accepting registrations for OAR's Virtual Cohorts for both the BIPOC Liberation Cohort and the WP Dismantling Whiteness Cohort for the upcoming September-November 2021 sessions. We are also now re-offering the cohorts to anyone who has already graduated from a cohort session. Make sure you read more below about the cohorts and register today!

We cannot express how grateful we are for your continued love and support for OAR's participants and mission. All of us at OAR continue to wish you safety, health, joy and love.

Gracias,



Elizabeth Jones Valderrama, MA, CVA | [Pronouns: she, her, hers](#)
Executive Director

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A Community Thrives Fundraiser - Help Us Reach Our Goal By August 13th!

OAR is currently hosting a fundraiser to raise funds for our direct services programs for a grant we are applying to and we are calling on your support to help us reach **our goal of \$6,000** in order to move onto the next phase of the grant.

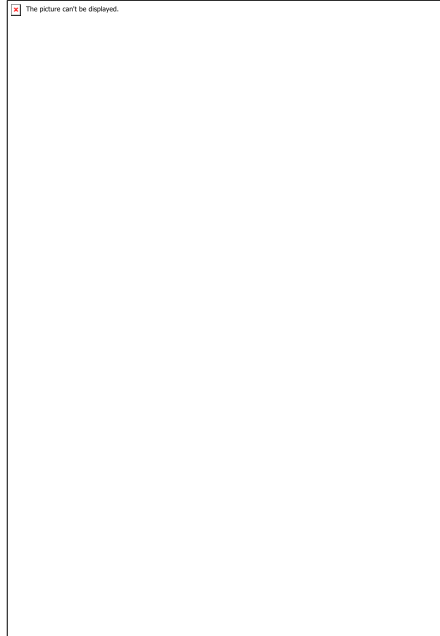
We are applying for a \$50,000 grant to expand our Direct Services fund to meet the increased needs of participants and their families. With these additional funds, we can provide even more meaningful wraparound assistance for individuals and families, helping to shape a safe reentry that includes economic, physical, mental, and emotional stability as well as strong family connections.

OAR is now in the next phase of this grant, which requires the organization to raise a minimum of \$6,000. Once we hit this fundraising goal, we can move on to the next round of the grant. The \$6,000 will also come back to us so it is a win-win! **All donations must be made on our fundraising page [here](#).** Any gift, no matter the amount makes a difference and gets us closer towards reaching our goal. We are so grateful for your continued support on this journey.

[Click Here to Donate on OAR's Fundraising Page](#)

Deadline: August 13, 2021

Meet "Theodore"*



Theodore was one of the many released from the Arlington County Detention Facility (ACDF) during the COVID-19 pandemic. Before his release from incarceration, Theodore regularly interacted with OAR through the groups that we facilitate for the residents in ACDF. Although he was nervous about getting released in the middle of a global pandemic, he felt a little more reassurance knowing that OAR would be with him to help him through his transition back home.

When Theodore was released in August 2020, he was highly determined to accomplish all the goals he set for himself. Through your support, OAR supported Theodore with transportation, helped retrieve his ID, provided him with a cell phone and a laptop, clothing for the summer and winter, food assistance, and enrolled Theodore in our employment program.

Through OAR's employment program, Theodore had the opportunity to practice mock interviews and submit applications. With all of his hard work and determination, he quickly landed a position at a local Goodwill. Theodore got off to a great start at his new job and consistently went above and beyond the requirements. He even got promoted to the lead position on his team in just weeks.

After getting hired from Goodwill, Theodore wrote back to OAR and told us, "the President of Goodwill just came to my store, and they called all of us in a huddle. At first, we thought someone got into trouble or something, but I come to find out that I got honored for having the highest production rate and electronic sales for all of the Goodwills in the D.C. metro area for this month! I was overwhelmed and got all emotional, and I'm still in shock because they are going to give me a bonus as well. I had to share that because it's people like you at OAR who continue to encourage us and push us, so I feel like that motivation carried over to my work ethic as well. It's all thanks to OAR for helping me get in the right direction."

With OAR's help with housing, Theodore could secure an apartment for himself and his children. He is still working and excelling at his job, and OAR is continuing to stay on the journey with Theodore in supporting him in all of his endeavors. We would not be able to do this without your continued love and support!

Your support, especially during this time is so crucial to OAR participants and their families. Thank you for being on this journey with us.

**Name changed to protect the privacy of the participant. The photo is a stock photo and not necessarily representative of the participant. [Click here](#) to learn more about OAR's Ethical Storytelling policy.*

Racial Justice and Liberation Virtual Cohorts - Register for the Sept-Nov 2021 Sessions Today!



We are now accepting applications for OAR's 3-Month Racial Justice and Liberation Virtual Cohorts for our September-November 2021 sessions. These virtual cohorts include a curriculum focusing on racial justice and liberation for all. Cohorts are separated between BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) and WP (White People).

The BIPOC Liberation cohort will take place on Thursdays from 1-4pm (EST) and the WP Dismantling Whiteness (for WP) cohort will take place on Mondays from 6-9pm (EST).

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.

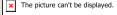
We would also like to share that if you have already participated in and graduated from any of the past cohort sessions, you are still eligible to register for another upcoming cohort session at **NO charge**. We are ever evolving and growing throughout each cohort session, which is why we are inviting all cohort graduates to join us. If you are a cohort graduate and would like to re-register for another session, there is now a section in our [registration form](#) to indicate this.

We also 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. There is a section on the application form where you can apply for a scholarship.

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](#)

Project Backpack Supports Children and Families for the Back-To-School Season

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OAR's back-to-school program, Project Backpack, has officially kicked off! OAR's Project Backpack supports children and families with a parent experiencing incarceration or has been recently released from incarceration for the upcoming 2021-2022 academic school year.

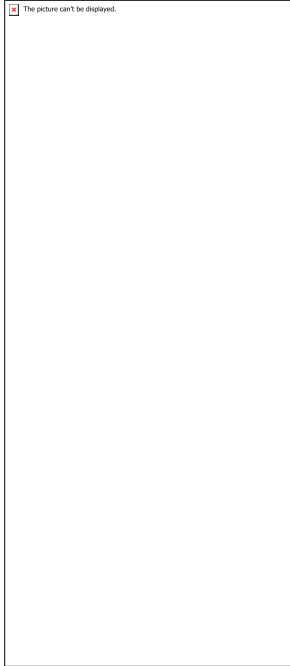
In the past, OAR has collected new backpacks and school supplies for children and families impacted by incarceration. The pandemic allowed us to spruce up our liberation practices and center participants more deeply.

With that in mind the goal for this program is to provide each child with a \$50 gift card/e-gift card/cash/check/or direct deposit. This way, the families can choose to use these gift cards/funds for whatever they need. Along with each gift card, each child will also receive a letter from their parent experiencing incarceration, letting them know that the gift is coming from them and wishing them luck on the upcoming school year.

[Click here If you would like to make a gift online towards OAR's Project Backpack](#)

[Click here for more ways to support OAR's Project Backpack program](#)

Recommended Reads from OAR's Racial Justice Library



The recommended read for this month is, [Let's Get Free: A Hip-Hop Theory of Justice](#), by Paul Butler. Drawing on his personal fascinating story as a prosecutor, a defendant, and an observer of the legal process, Butler offers a sharp and engaging critique of our criminal justice system. He argues against discriminatory drug laws and excessive police power and shows how our policy of mass incarceration erodes communities and perpetuates crime. Controversially, he supports jury nullification, or voting “not guilty” out of principle, as a way for everyday people to take a stand against unfair laws. Butler offers instead a “hip hop theory of justice,” parsing the messages about crime and punishment found in urban music and culture. Butler’s argument is powerful, edgy, and incisive.

This book can be purchased from [Harambee Books \(VA\)](#), [Mahogany Books \(DC\)](#), [Loyalty Bookstores \(DC\)](#), [Solid State Books \(DC\)](#), or from [Everyone's Place \(MD\)](#), 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.

OAR Latest Videos

- [OAR's Annual Second Chance Fundraising Virtual Breakfast 2021 Full Recording](#)
- [OAR Executive Director, Elizabeth Jones Valderrama, Testimonial Video](#)
- [OAR 2021 Participant Video](#)
- [OAR Upstream Downstream Animation Video](#)
- [TOBE Nwigwe | WAKE UP EVERYBODY \(not owned by OAR\)](#)
- [TOBE Nwigwe | MAKE IT HOME \(not owned by OAR\)](#)

Upcoming Events

Free One-Hour Virtual Tour of OAR's Mission

Want to learn more about us? Join us for a free one-hour virtual tour of our mission via Zoom! Guests will hear about OAR's programs and services from the team members who are working directly in the programs. We promise to end on time. To register for one of the tour dates below or to check out additional tour dates, [click here](#) or contact Stephannie Ku at sku@oaronline.org.

- Tuesday, August 17, 2021, 10am-11am (EST)
- Monday, August 23, 2021, 11am-12pm (EST)
- Wednesday, September 8, 2021, 3pm-4pm (EST)
- Monday, September 20, 2021, 11am-12pm (EST)
- Monday, October 4, 2021, 12pm-1pm (EST)
- Wednesday, October 27, 2021, 10am-11am (EST)
- Monday, November 8, 2021, 9am-10am (EST)
- Wednesday, November 17, 2021, 1pm-2pm (EST)
- Monday, December 6, 2021, 10am-11am (EST)
- Tuesday, December 21, 2021, 1pm-2pm (EST)

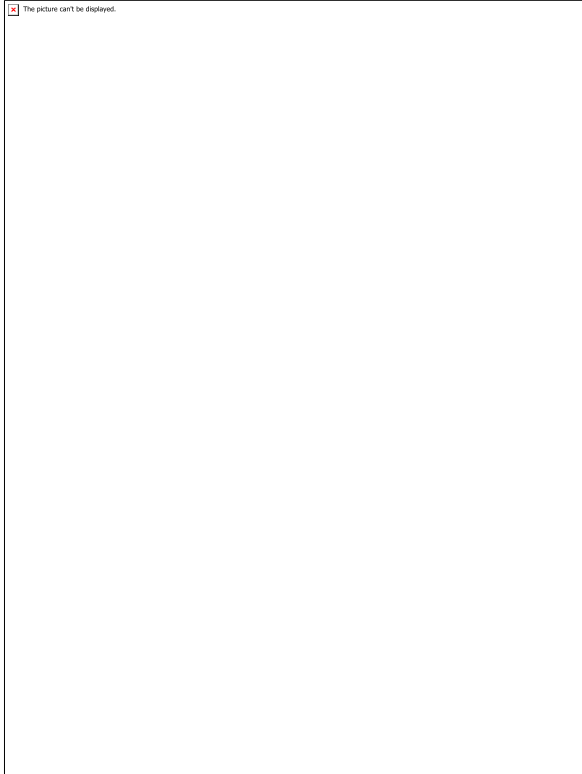
Project Connection (year-round)

OAR's Project Connection program supports children and families impacted by incarceration year-round. Each family participating in this program will receive a \$50 gift card/cash/check/or direct deposit along with a handwritten letter from their parent each month to remind them that even though they are not able to physically be together at the moment, they are always keeping them in mind. [Click here](#) to donate to OAR's Project Connection program. Your gifts will help us provide gift card/cash/check/or direct deposit for each family. If you have any questions or would like to get involved in any way contact Stephannie Ku at sku@oaronline.org.

Project Backpack (July 2021 - September 2021)

OAR's Annual **Project Backpack** program kicks off this summer! This is another one of OAR's programs that support children and families impacted by incarceration, specifically for the back-to-school season. Each child in the program with a \$50 gift card/cash/check/or direct deposit along with a handwritten letter from their parent to wish them luck on the upcoming school year. How can you support? If you would like to make a gift towards Project Backpack online, please [click here](#). Your gifts will help us cover the costs to purchase and mail out gift card/cash/check/or direct deposit for each family. For more ways to support and volunteer for Project Backpack, please visit our website [here](#). If you have any questions, would like to volunteer or get involved in any way contact Stephannie Ku at sku@oaronline.org.

Interested in Volunteering with OAR?



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.

Clinical Volunteers (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.

Court Volunteers (In-Person and Virtual)

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 (in person) and Friday (virtual) 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.

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.

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](#), [Twitter](#),

[Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Vimeo](#) pages to help share and spread the word of our mission or email Stephannie Ku at sku@oaronline.org if you have any questions.

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.

Special Event/On-Call Volunteers (Virtual and In-Person) - Currently for Project Backpack & Project Connection

Volunteer to help out with special events and project as well as 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. Right now we are taking volunteers to help out with Project Connection and Project Backpack as well. Please contact Stephannie Ku at sku@oaronline.org if you are interested.

OAR News Features

- OAR's work and partnership with the Commonwealth Attorney's Office and Vera Institute to reduce racial disparities in the criminal legal system recognized in the Washington Post with quotes from OAR's Executive Director Elizabeth Jones Valderrama and OAR's Board of Director and Commonwealth Attorney Parisa Deghani-Tafti. Read the full article [here](#).
- 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](#).
- 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](#).
- 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](#).
- 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](#).
- OAR was recognized in front of Arlington County Board members and over 100 industry leaders by Arlington Transportation Partners at their virtual banquet as a Gold level Champion for our dedication to promoting sustainable transportation in Arlington County. To watch a recording of the virtual banquet click [here](#).

Support OAR

1. Make a monetary donation to OAR by clicking [here](#)
 2. Donate [Target](#) and/or [Amazon](#) gift cards in increments of \$10 each for OAR participants
 3. Shop on our Amazing Wish List: [OAR's Amazon Wish List](#)
 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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COVID-19 Health & Safety Resources/Updates - Stay Informed!

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](#)
- ACPS Updates - <https://www.acps.k12.va.us/acps-at-home>

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](#)
- FCPS Updates - <https://www.fcps.edu/blog/talking-children-about-coronavirus>

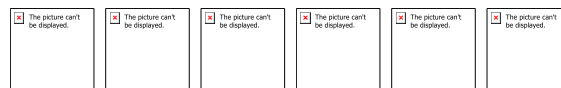
More About OAR

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.

Our Contact Information

{{Organization Name}}
{{Organization Address}}
{{Organization Phone}}
{{Organization Website}}

Follow OAR on Social Media!



{{Unsubscribe}}

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