

NEWS AND UPDATES

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Welcome to our latest newsletter. The news cycle continues to be full of tough news, so we thought we'd highlight things to be hopeful about in this edition. And one of those things happened at the Virginia legislature. Recently, a bipartisan group of elected officials [passed HB 2158](#), which, if approved by the Governor, will improve higher education opportunities for those who are incarcerated. Specifically, it establishes a partnership between the Virginia Community College System and the Virginia Department of Corrections (DOC), along with the Virginia Information Technologies Agency, to improve the education provided to people in prison. The Governor did NOT veto the bill, and we are keeping our fingers crossed it will pass. Providing education access in the DOC is one thing OAR has advocated for since it is critical to increasing people's resiliency and helping with job opportunities and stability. OAR has provided educational services and other programming critical to people creating a successful reentry for themselves for 50 years.

We are also excited about continuing to honor our 50th anniversary on April 30th at an open house in our Welcome Center. We hope you will join us as we celebrate our critical work, honor those we journey alongside with, and plan for the future. And we are thrilled to offer additional volunteer opportunities and another chance to dance with us, please see below for more details.

We remain hopeful about our federal grants and are operating accordingly. We will keep you updated, and in the meantime, we appreciate your ongoing support.

OAR Collective

50 YEARS TIMELINE



ANNIVERSARY REFLECTION

2003: OARonline.org launches

2012: OAR was selected as "one of the best nonprofits in the DC metropolitan area" by Spur Local (formerly the Catalogue for Philanthropy) – an independent organization that spotlights the work of small nonprofits in the community. We were also re-selected and featured in their 2016, 2020, and 2024 print editions.

2014: Became a recipient of the Arlington Turkey Trot



UPCOMING EVENTS



Spring2ACTion

Alexandria's Giving Day
Presented by ACT for Alexandria

*Let's come together for our
community!
April 9, 2025*

Spring2ACTION is an extraordinary day to celebrate our collective spirit of giving and to support the organizations that make Alexandria a vibrant place for everyone.

(Note: Early Giving has started!)

[Click here for more info](#)



Virtual ZUMBA GOLD PARTY

Treat yourself to a joyful workout while supporting OAR!



Friday, April 18
8:00PM EST



**Hosted by Elizabeth, OAR's Executive
Director and Certified Zumba Instructor**

Join us for a Zumba Gold Party hosted by Elizabeth, OAR's Executive Director and certified Zumba instructor! This fun, low-impact class is perfect for all ages and abilities, whether you're a seasoned dancer or just want to get moving and have some fun.

Not only will you get a great workout, but you'll also be supporting OAR of Arlington, Alexandria and Falls Church! All proceeds go towards our vision to create a safe & thriving community where those impacted by the legal system enjoy equal civil & human rights.

Let's dance for a cause and create a more racially just and liberated community together!

Zumba Gold Dance Party on April 18th 8 pm – [register today!](#)

REGISTER TODAY



We know that many people are struggling right now as we see funding for critical services and benefits cut or altered alongside massive changes to the workforce. We think that now, more than ever, finding moments of joy and being in community is essential.

We see lots of joy at our home at OAR, and we want to share that with you. We want to invite you into the Welcome Center and spend time with you in the space that is so important to those who work at OAR and those we journey with.

To continue honoring OAR's 50th anniversary year, we will host an in-person Open House on April 30th. For this year, the Open House will replace our virtual Annual Liberation Celebration.

[Click here to RSVP](#)



Call for VOLUNTEERS

JOIN US AS A VOLUNTEER AND
HELP US CREATE A POSITIVE
IMPACT!

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT



OAR currently has several volunteer opportunities available for those looking to get more involved in our work. We are seeking support in the following roles: Administrative Support, Court Volunteer, Reentry Support, and Strength and/or Fitness Trainer. These roles are essential in helping us continue our mission and support individuals on their journey. If you're interested in volunteering your time and talents, we would love to connect with you. [Click here to learn more](#)

CHARLIE'S CORNER



Hi, it's Charlie, OAR's Ambassador of Happiness.

The sun is shining a little brighter, and it's the perfect time to get outside, and soak up some fresh air. I hope you can take a moment to enjoy the weather.

Our Contact Information

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Church

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