

Save the Date, Fair Chances and More!



We hope you are able to enjoy the sunlight today. We know it is a difficult and highly uncertain time for many, and we are incredibly grateful for our OAR and the broader community.

In our last enewsletter, we shared the potential impact and our fears of the President's freezing of federal funds. Our federal contacts shared that the unfrozen funding will not be guaranteed to remain this way and that multiyear grants may end before expected, potentially as soon as this September. Reports continue to trickle in about how a new freeze or removal of funding would impact vital public safety and justice programming, including likely cuts to programs and resources dedicated to mental health, substance use disorder, and reentry services. Others report that these freezes will impact public defenders and legal service providers. If freezes or abrupt cuts occur, the news is not good for public safety, or for OAR participants and their families. We are trying to remain hopeful and will keep you updated.

There are some positive legislative updates in Virginia. The Virginia House and Senate passed probation reduction bills, which will now be reconciled in committee. The bill allows people to reduce their probationary sentences if they meet certain conditions. The Senate also passed another bill restricting private management of prisons and jails unless approved by the General Assembly. The General Assembly passed a bill to improve protections in the criminal legal system for people with intellectual or developmental disabilities, and both the Senate and the House passed a bill prohibiting youth shackling.

As always, we remain grateful for your support and generosity,

OAR Collective

Arlington Magazine Test of Time



We are thrilled to be featured in the March/April Arlington Magazine Test of Time profiles. Here is our featured picture!

To access the full article, you can pick up a copy of the issue.

[Click here to find out where to get your copy.](#)

DID YOU KNOW?



CERTIFICATE of RECOGNITION

APRIL IS
SECOND
CHANCE MONTH

Did you know that the month of April has been proclaimed as Second Chance Month? At OAR, we prefer to call it Fair Chances Month since most people impacted by the criminal legal system did not have a fair chance to begin with. We will participate in and host several special events in April to commemorate the occasion. See below and stay tuned for more details.

EVENTS RELATED TO FAIR CHANCES MONTH



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 starts March 26th)

[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!](#)

SAVE THE DATE



HONORING 50 YEARS



50TH ANNIVERSARY
OPEN HOUSE 4-6PM

LOCATION: OAR 1400 N UHLE ST UNIT 704,
ARLINGTON, VA 22201

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. Please be sure to save the date.

CHARLIE'S CORNER



Hey everyone, it's Charlie, OAR's Ambassador of Happiness.

Just a reminder to take a deep breath and look for little moments of joy today. I am rooting for you!

[Click Here to Follow Us on Instagram](#)