

Even When the World Feels Heavy, We Keep Showing Up



Since our last newsletter, so much has happened in the world — bills introduced, elections underway, lives lost, loved ones separated, and rapid changes unfolding all around us. Amid the uncertainty, we continue to be inspired by people’s unwavering commitment to civic engagement, making their voices heard, and showing love for one another — even when the world feels heavy.

At OAR, we show up every day to fight for a world that honors the dignity of every person — regardless of race or ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, or political belief. We envision a future grounded in love, kindness, joy, and liberation — a future where we no longer have to struggle for the basic opportunity to lift up all communities, especially those pushed to the margins. As we look ahead to upcoming elections and legislative changes, we hope every candidate and elected official commits to governing with these values at heart.

But this work isn’t just for elected officials. We believe everyone — no matter their title or background — has a role to play in building a more just and compassionate society. Whether it’s showing up for your neighbors, advocating for fair policies, volunteering your time, donating to nonprofits, or simply listening with empathy, each of us has the power to create change.

Those in positions of power have a particular responsibility to turn values into action. That means advocating for fair chances for people who have served long prison sentences and pose no threat to public safety. It means increasing funding for alternative sentencing, diversion, and reentry programs — like the ones OAR facilitates on behalf of the community. It means demanding stronger support for individuals returning from incarceration, so they can rebuild their lives and help their communities thrive. And it means recognizing the long-standing harm of a broken criminal legal system — and doing the work to transform it.

In recent years, hateful and divisive rhetoric has reached a boiling point. As we prepare to choose new leaders, we urge all candidates — and all of us — to lead with empathy and courage. May our words and actions reflect the world we want to live in — for ourselves, our neighbors, and generations to come.

The OAR Collective

Meet Our Board of Directors



Get to Know

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We're proud to introduce the dedicated individuals on OAR's Board of Directors. Each member brings a diverse mix of expertise, heart, and commitment to advancing OAR's work.

[Click Here to Meet the Board of Directors](#)

Give 8/28



In 2025, we're celebrating the unshakeable spirit of Black-led nonprofits. The ones that bend, but don't break. The ones that keep showing up — for the culture, the community, and the cause — even when the odds are stacked against them.

The only national giving day for Black-Led & Benefiting Nonprofits

August 28th, 8AM-11:59PM ET



[Click Here to Learn More About Give 8/28](#)

Save The Date!



Join us for the annual, 2025 Arlington Turkey Trot 20th Anniversary!
Thursday, November 27th, 2025

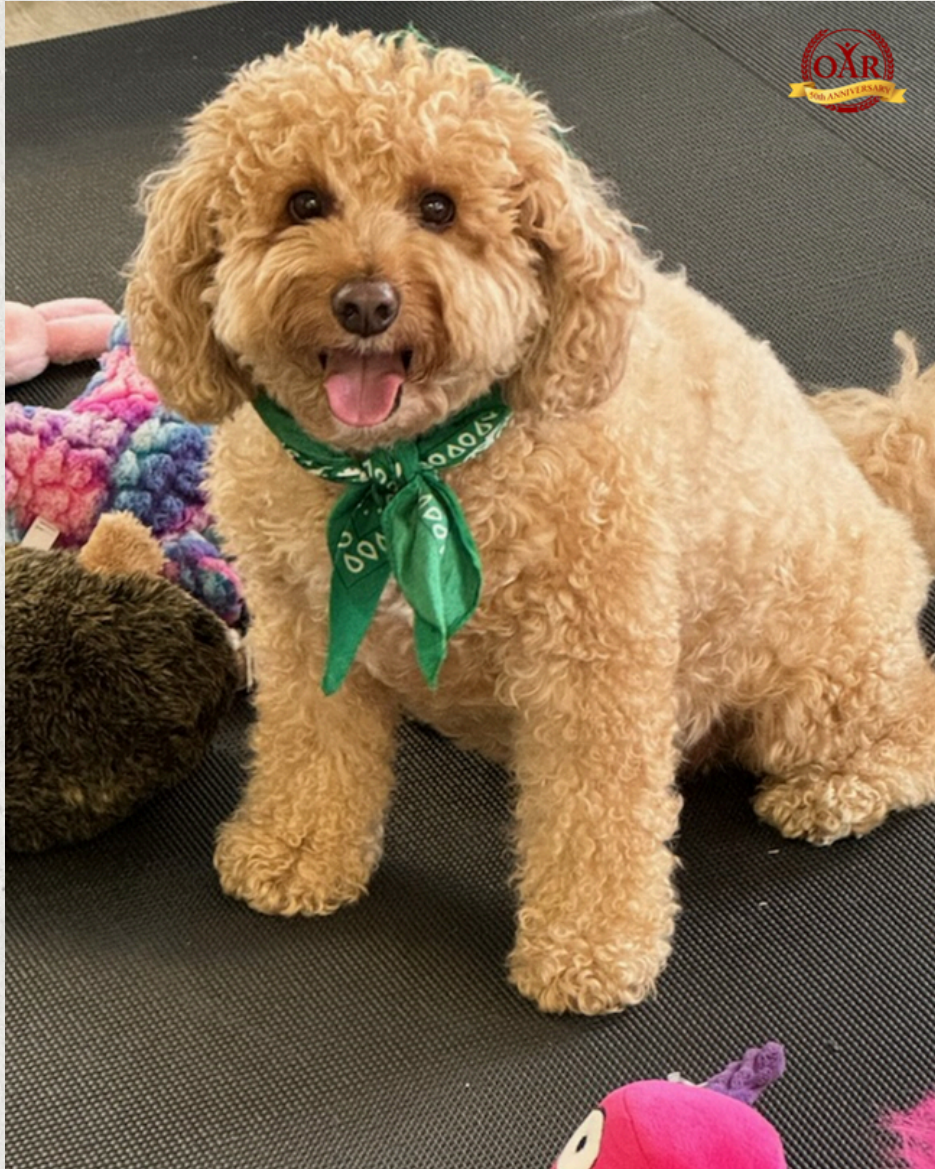
The Arlington Turkey Trot is more than just a 5K—it's a beloved Thanksgiving morning tradition that brings our community together for fun, fitness, and giving back. Now in its 20th year, the Trot supports local nonprofits that serve Arlington neighbors in need. Whether you're running, walking, or cheering from the sidelines, your participation helps raise critical funds and awareness for organizations making a real impact in our community.

Join us this Thanksgiving and be part of something meaningful. Together, we trot for good.

Registration opening soon! Click below for more info.

[Click Here to Learn More About Give 8/28](#)

CHARLIE'S CORNER



I've met a lot of people in my line of work — some just out of jail, some trying to rebuild, all of them worthy of compassion. You don't have to wear a collar like mine to understand this: we all need grace. That's why I am so proud to work at OAR and support the OAR Collective. They walk alongside folks during some of the hardest chapters of their lives. I may wag tails, but they change lives.

—Charlie

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