

# NEWS AND UPDATES

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## Centering Hope This April: A Month of Fair Chances

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April is often called the month of second chances, but at OAR, we believe in fair chances. So many of the people we journey with were never given a fair chance to begin with.

Right now, we are centering hope.

Hope is what keeps us supporting one another every day, even when it feels impossible.

Hope is what brings us to this work each morning, advocating for social justice, for safe and stable housing, for access to essential resources, and for the right of every person to live with and care for their loved ones.

Hope is what allows us to imagine a world where kindness is valued over hate, and where we ask our neighbors how we can help.

And right now, we are full of that hope.

Across the country, people facing unimaginable challenges are showing up for one another. They are providing care in whatever ways they can. They are choosing community. They are choosing compassion.

That inspires us to keep going.

Every day at OAR, we have the privilege of walking alongside individuals as they return to their communities, helping them find housing, secure employment, and rebuild their lives. We work with advocates and partners to keep people in their communities, with their loved ones, rather than behind bars. And we do this work with deep gratitude, knowing that not everyone has the same freedom to do so.

To you, thank you.

Thank you for standing with us.

Thank you for showing up in your own communities.

Thank you for believing in a better future for all of us.

We know these are difficult times. And even in the darkest moments, please know we are with you.

We hope you will join us for one of the events this April as we honor Fair Chances Month and lift up the belief that everyone deserves the opportunity to rebuild, to belong, and to thrive.

The OAR Collective

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## Liberation Gathering

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We would love to have you join us this Thursday morning! OAR's Liberation Gathering is happening on Thursday, April 16, 2026, at 7:55 AM EST. This is a joyful, virtual morning filled with music, celebration, and community. This is one of our most cherished events of the year, and we are saving a spot for you.

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## Inside OAR Tour

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We warmly invite you to tour OAR's newly renovated Welcome Center and experience the space where our shared vision of justice, joy, and liberation comes to life. Thursday, April 30 (see registration link below)

During your visit, you will:

Explore our refreshed and reimagined Welcome Center.

Learn how OAR journeys with individuals and families impacted by the criminal legal system, creating pathways to opportunity through our programs

Hear how our community journeys alongside individuals and families to build stability, hope, and opportunity.

This is more than a tour of a space. It is an opportunity to see how dignity, restoration, and hope are woven into everything we do.

You will also be greeted by our Ambassador of Happiness, therapy dog Charlie, who brings joy to our Welcome Center each day.

Space is limited, and registration is required. We look forward to welcoming you and sharing how, together, we are building a community rooted in justice, joy, and liberation.

"Reforming Criminal Justice" Extra Mile Event



# EXTRA MILE

Let's talk about Criminal Justice Reform over lunch:

- ✓ Restorative Justice
- ✓ Alternative Sentencing
- ✓ Re-entry Challenges

**30 APRIL 2026 11:45 AM**

MCLEAN BIBLE CHURCH - ARLINGTON  
1310 N COURTHOUSE  
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22201  
HOSTED BY ARLINGTON BRIDGE BUILDERS

**CYFA**  
CENTER FOR YOUTH & FAMILY ADVOCACY

**OAR**



REGISTER TODAY <https://www.bridgebuildersva.org/extra-mile>

How can we improve our criminal justice system to equitably address the needs of both victims and offenders? Leaders from Offender Aid & Restoration and the Center for Youth

& Family Advocacy will explore issues like restorative justice, alternative sentencing, and re-entering society.

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**Participant Story**

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When Amani returned home, she carried more than just a small bag of belongings. She carried the weight of years spent away from her family, the uncertainty of where she would sleep, and the reality that finding a job or stable housing would not come easily.

Like many of the people we journey with, Amani had the determination to rebuild her life. But determination alone was not enough to overcome the barriers in front of her.

Through OAR, Amani received support for housing, helping her move into a safe, stable place of her own. With that stability, she began searching for work and, with support, secured a job that allowed her to provide for herself and reconnect with her family.

But what stands out most is not just what Amani accomplished. It is the way the community showed up around her.

From advocates who worked to ensure she could remain in the community, to supporters like you who make this work possible, Amani was not alone in her journey.

Today, Amani is rebuilding her life one step at a time. She is showing up for her family, planning for her future, and holding onto something that carried her through the hardest moments: hope.

This April, as we honor Fair Chances Month, stories like Amani's remind us that when people are given the support they deserve, they do more than survive. They rebuild, they reconnect, and they thrive.

And it all begins with a fair chance.

\*Please note OAR uses an Ethical Storytelling Philosophy that respects the dignity and protects the privacy of each person we work with. We do not use the actual names, photos, or videos of OAR participants to protect their privacy.



**CHARLIE'S CORNER**





Hi, it's Charlie, OAR's Ambassador of Happiness. I wanted to personally invite you to join us this Thursday, April 16, for OAR's Liberation Gathering. It is going to be a special morning, I can't wait to see you there!

-Charlie



Give With Confid

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