



NEWS AND UPDATES

[READ MORE BELOW](#)

OAR

Finding Strength in One Another

This July, we welcomed the beginning of OAR's Fiscal Year 2027 with gratitude and a renewed commitment to our mission. This month has reminded us of both the beauty and the challenges of our shared humanity. We witnessed moments that celebrated love, unity, and belonging, while also holding space for individuals, families, and communities grieving heartbreaking events around the world.

Moments like these remind us that joy and grief often exist side by side. Even in difficult times, we can choose compassion over judgment, connection over division, and care for one another. Those values are at the heart of OAR's work every day as we journey alongside individuals and families impacted by the criminal legal system and work toward communities where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

As we begin FY2027, we are grateful for your partnership and look forward to another year of building stronger communities together. Thank you for continuing to journey with us as we work toward a future rooted in justice, joy, and liberation.

The Collective

Welcoming OAR's FY2027 Board of Directors

As we begin a new fiscal year, we are pleased to welcome OAR's FY2027 Board of Directors and officers. Our board members bring passion, expertise, and a shared commitment to advancing OAR's mission and vision. Together, they help guide our organization as we continue building communities rooted in justice, joy, and liberation.

We are also deeply grateful to the board members whose terms have recently concluded. Their leadership, generosity, and dedication have strengthened OAR in countless ways and helped position OAR for the future. We thank them for their service and the lasting impact they have made on our organization and the individuals, families, and communities we journey alongside.

We invite you to meet our FY2027 Board of Directors, learn more about each member, and view their biographies and photos on our website.

A Little Less to Worry About



OAR

MEET GLORIA

My name is Gloria*, and I'm raising my grandson while his mom is incarcerated. Like so many grandparents, I never imagined I'd be starting over, getting ready for another school year, packing lunches, helping with homework, and making sure he has everything he needs. I love him with all my heart. There are days when the financial stress feels overwhelming.

Last year, OAR's Project Backpack provided our family with a gift card for a new backpack and school supplies, and I felt so relieved. For the first time in weeks, I wasn't worrying about how I was going to afford everything on the school supply list. Instead, I could focus on helping my grandson get excited for his first day of school. Watching him pick out the perfect backpack was something I'll never forget. He wore it proudly all the way through the store and couldn't wait to show it to his friends.

That gift card represented so much more than school supplies. It reminded me that our family isn't alone and that people in our community truly care about children like my grandson and grandparents like me. As his grandmother, I carry a lot of responsibility, but I also carry love for my family and excitement for my grandson's future. OAR's support gave us one less thing to worry about so we could focus on what matters most, helping my grandson begin the school year ready to learn, grow, and thrive.

As another school year approaches, I'm grateful that OAR continues to support families like ours. Knowing that other children and families will experience that same relief means more than I can put into words.

**At OAR, we are committed to ethical storytelling that honors the dignity, privacy, and safety of the individuals and families we journey with. To protect confidentiality, names, identifying details, and circumstances have been changed.*

Project Backpack

OAR

PROJECT BACKPACK



SUPPORT PROJECT
BACKPACK



DONATE ONLINE

SEND GIFT CARDS

As a new school year approaches, OAR is journeying with children and families impacted by the criminal legal system through Project Backpack.

Project Backpack helps strengthen family connections by providing each child with a \$50 gift card, allowing their family to purchase the school supplies, clothing, shoes, or other back-to-school essentials they need most. Whenever possible, the gift is accompanied by a handwritten note from their incarcerated or recently returned parent, guardian, trusted adult, or other loved one, reminding the child they are loved, encouraged, and thought of as they begin a new school year.

By centering families' choices and honoring these important relationships, Project Backpack helps children start the school year with both practical support and meaningful connection.

Will you help make this possible for a child this school year?

You can support Project Backpack by making a financial donation or by donating new \$25 or \$50 Visa or Amazon gift cards.

August Tour



You're Invited
INSIDE OAR TOUR

WELCOME CENTER | THURSDAY, AUGUST 6



We invite you to tour OAR's Welcome Center and experience the space where our vision of justice, joy, and liberation comes to life. During your visit, you will explore the refreshed space and learn how OAR journeys with individuals and families impacted by the criminal legal system, creating pathways to opportunity, stability, and hope.

This is more than a tour. It is an opportunity to see how dignity and restoration are woven into the work we do every day. You will also be greeted by our Ambassador of Happiness, therapy dog Charlie, who brings joy to the Welcome Center each day. Space is limited; registration is required.

Shape the 2027 County Legislative Agenda

**Weigh in by
July 31st!**



**Help the County Shape its
2027 Legislative Agenda!**



Every year, Arlington County creates a legislative package that outlines the County's priorities and positions for the Virginia General Assembly Session.



The Arlington County Board is collecting public input this summer to inform this process. The final package will be shared with the public in late Fall 2026.



Take 3 to 5 minutes to fill out this feedback form and let us know your thoughts!



Every year, Arlington County creates a legislative package that outlines the County's legislative values, initiatives, and positions for the Virginia General Assembly Session.

The 2027 General Assembly session begins on January 13, 2027, and is scheduled to adjourn in early March. It is the 45-day "short" session. Beginning in January, the General Assembly will consider a myriad of issues and will include the creation of a new two-year budget for the Commonwealth.

Residents interested in providing their thoughts are encouraged to take 3 to 5 minutes to complete the feedback form linked below.

This feedback form closes at the end of the day on July 31st, 2026. All questions should be directed to the County Board Office at 703-228-3130 or countyboard@arlingtonva.us.

Charlie's Barks of Wisdom



Hi Friend,

Sometimes the smallest acts of kindness make the biggest difference. A backpack, a smile, a helping hand, or simply letting someone know they are not alone can brighten someone's day. Thank you for helping OAR build a community where children, families, and neighbors know they belong.

-Charlie

Give With Confidence



Our Contact Information

OAR of Arlington, Alexandria and Falls
Church

P. O. Box 41030

Arlington, VA 22204

703-745-5441

<http://www.OARonline.org>

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Manage email preferences](#)

Follow OAR on Social Media!

