



NEWS AND UPDATES

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Every Goal Begins with Support

This June reminds us of the many ways people come together. Families gather to celebrate Father's Day. Communities unite around the World Cup. Graduates look ahead to new opportunities and fresh beginnings. And at OAR, we reach the close of another fiscal year and reflect on all that we have accomplished together.

Whether on a fútbol/soccer field, around a table with loved ones, or within our community, progress happens when people support one another. No one achieves their goals alone. Every milestone is made possible by teammates, loved ones, mentors, advocates, volunteers, community members, and neighbors who choose to show up for one another.

That truth is at the heart of OAR's work. Every day, we journey alongside individuals and families impacted by the criminal legal system as they work toward stability, healing, and new opportunities. We witness people reconnect with loved ones, find employment, secure housing, and take meaningful steps toward the future they envision for themselves.

As we close another fiscal year, we are filled with gratitude for the community that makes this work possible. Your support helps create pathways forward and reminds the participants that they do not have to navigate life's challenges alone.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Together, we are building a community where everyone has the opportunity to belong, contribute, and thrive.

The OAR Collective

Honoring Fathers, Families, and Loved Ones



This past Sunday, Father's Day was celebrated in the United States. It is a time to recognize the many fathers, grandfathers, father figures, guardians, mentors, and caregivers who play important roles in our lives.

For families impacted by the criminal legal system, Father's Day can bring both celebration and longing. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, approximately 1.1 million incarcerated parents are fathers of minor children. The same report (<https://bjs.ojp.gov/library/publications/parents-prison-and-their-minor-children>) found that about half of incarcerated parents reported never receiving a personal visit from their children while incarcerated. Yet many of these fathers were actively involved in their children's lives before incarceration, with more than half reporting that they lived with their children before their sentence began, highlighting the significant impact that separation can have on families.

The impact on children can be profound. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) (<https://www.cdc.gov/aces/about/index.html>) recognizes parental incarceration as an Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE), a potentially traumatic event linked to long-term effects on health, well-being, and opportunity.

These statistics cannot fully capture the strength, resilience, and love that families demonstrate as they navigate separation and reconnection. At OAR, we see fathers, grandfathers, father figures, guardians, mentors, and caregivers working every day to rebuild trust, reconnect with their children, secure stable housing and employment, and create brighter futures for their families. We are honored to journey alongside them as they take these important steps forward.

Together We Made a Difference



As we close another fiscal year, we are filled with gratitude for the community that makes OAR's work possible. Together, we have continued to journey alongside individuals and families impacted by the criminal legal system, helping create pathways toward stability, healing, and opportunity.

This year, we expanded direct assistance to nearly \$450,000, helping 450 reentry participants, 30 families, and 195 children access housing, food, transportation, clothing,

family support, employment opportunities, vocational and educational programs, treatment, medical care, and other essential

I needs. We also provided support for debt repayment and economic mobility, helping participants build greater stability for themselves and their families.

In addition, we continued strengthening our alternative sentencing options, including community service, and diversion programs, which provided restorative pathways for more than 1,000 youth and adults while helping individuals remain connected to their families and communities. For some participants, successful completion of these programs resulted in charges being reduced or dismissed, opening doors to employment, education, and future opportunities.

Throughout the year, we remained committed to hiring and promoting individuals with shared lived experience, recognizing the wisdom, empathy, and leadership they bring to our work. Their voices help ensure that OAR's programs reflect the needs and strengths of the people we journey with. Beyond direct services, we continued our upstream work to address the root causes of involvement in the criminal legal system. Through community education, public awareness efforts, legislative engagement, racial justice initiatives, and partnerships across our region, we advocated for policies and practices that expand fair chances, reduce barriers to reentry, and strengthen communities. Together, these efforts help create the conditions for long-term justice, joy, and liberation.

Every accomplishment this year reflects the power of community. Thank you for walking alongside OAR and helping create fair chances, stronger communities, and brighter futures.

Volunteer Spotlight: Marilyn



This month, we are honored to recognize Marilyn for her decade-long commitment to OAR and the individuals and families we journey with.

Since 2016, Marilyn has volunteered with OAR's Community Service program, providing essential support that helps participants successfully complete their court-ordered community service requirements. Her work includes reviewing documentation, tracking hours, maintaining records, and helping ensure participants receive accurate credit for the service they complete. When needed, she has also stepped in to support in-person Court sessions, helping create a welcoming and organized experience for participants.

Although much of Marilyn's work happens behind the scenes, its impact is felt every day. Through her consistency, attention to detail, and deep commitment to fairness and dignity, she helps ensure that participants can move forward on their path toward stability and opportunity. OAR's Community Service program journeys with more than 1,000 youth and adults each year, and Marilyn's dedication helps make that work possible.

We are deeply grateful for Marilyn's generosity, compassion, and years of service. Thank you, Marilyn, for helping build a stronger community where everyone has the opportunity to move forward.

Words from a participant: Steven



OAR
MEET STEVEN

My name is Steven*, and one of the hardest parts of being incarcerated was being away from my children.

I missed birthdays, school events, and everyday moments that many parents take for granted. When I returned home, I knew I wanted to rebuild those relationships, but I also knew it would take time. I needed stable housing, a job, and the opportunity to show my family that I was committed to moving forward.

With support from OAR, I was able to connect with resources and focus on creating a stronger foundation for myself and my children. There were challenges along the way, and rebuilding trust did not happen overnight. But each step forward reminded me why I kept going.

Today, I am working, spending time with my children, and creating new memories together. I cannot change the time we lost, but I can be present now. Every conversation, every visit, and every shared moment is something I value deeply.

What I have learned is that progress is not something we achieve alone. Family, community, and support make a difference. I am grateful for the people who believed in me and for the opportunity to continue building a brighter future with my children.

**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.*

Inside OAR Tour



You're Invited
INSIDE OAR TOUR

WELCOME CENTER | THURSDAY, AUGUST 6



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, August 6th (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 we are building a community rooted in justice, joy, and liberation together.

Charlie's Barks of Wisdom



One thing I've learned from all the people I meet is that everyone needs a little encouragement sometimes. A kind word, a helping hand, or someone who believes in you can make all the difference. Thank you for being part of a community that helps people move forward with hope. Please remember that I believe in you.

-Charlie

Give With Confidence



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