

Journeying together toward justice, joy, and liberation.

Hola Reader,

One of my favorite things about this work is hearing what people notice about one another. After Green Valley Day, the organizers wrote to thank OAR's Community Service team and participants. They described people stepping in wherever help was needed and staying through the cleanup. I was grateful that they took the time to recognize those efforts, and I wanted to share their words with you too.

You will also hear from Andre, a participant completing Community Service, who describes what it meant to work alongside new people and have his contributions valued. It meant a lot to read his words alongside the thanks from the Green Valley Civic Association.

October gave us other reasons to celebrate. NAACP Arlington Branch honored OAR at its Freedom Fund Banquet, Faith Lutheran Church welcomed us as its Mission of the Month, and our beloved Charlie turned 10. We are grateful to everyone who shared these occasions with us.

As November approaches, we want to encourage you to exercise your right to vote if you have the ability to do so and haven't already, for those voting in Virginia consider joining us in voting YES on Question 3, and plan to be in community with OAR and friends at the Arlington Turkey Trot. There are many ways to be part of this work, and we are glad you are here.

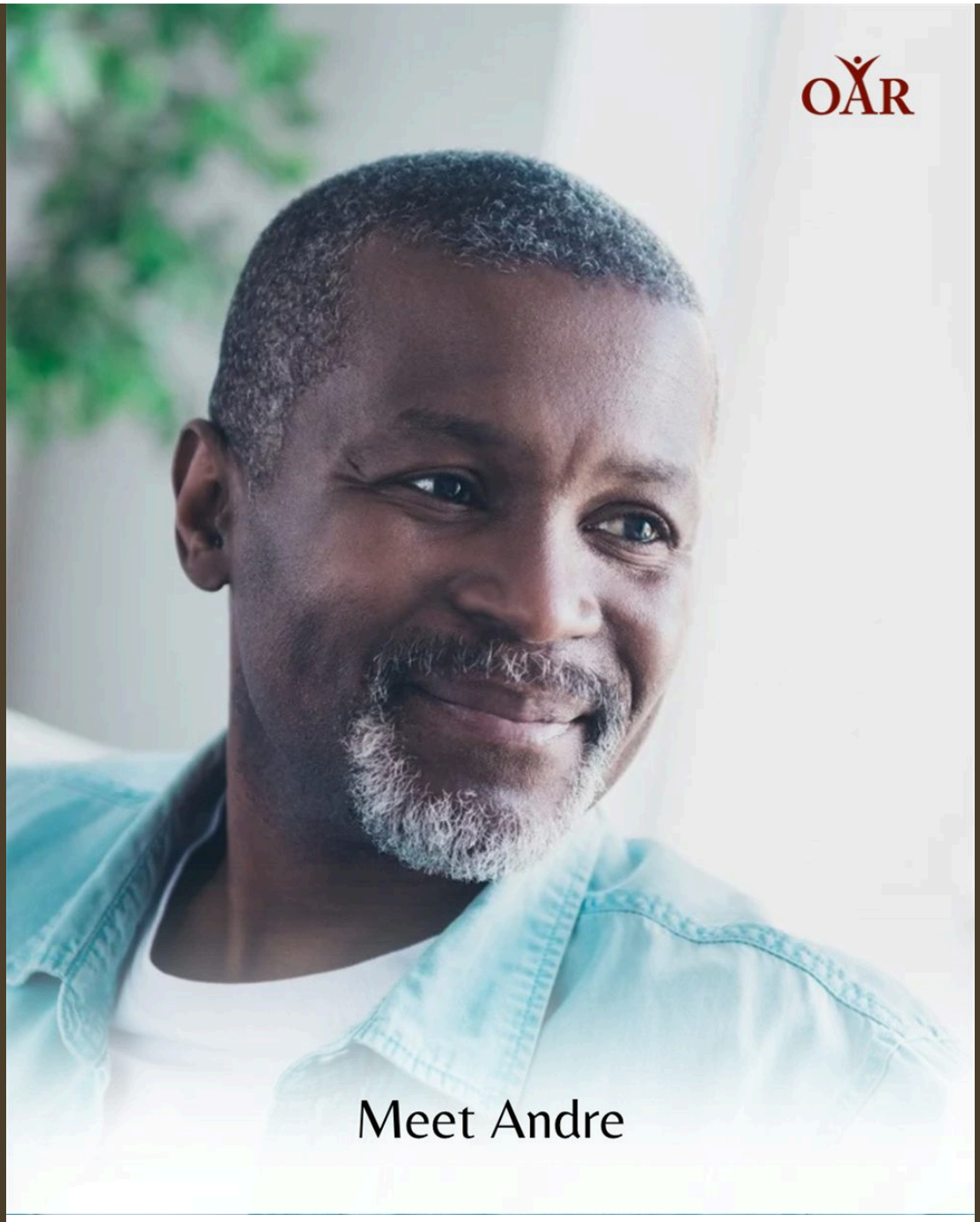
Your generosity helps keep OAR going. Thank you for continuing to journey with us and for helping build a future where individuals impacted by the criminal legal system enjoy equal human and civil rights.

Make a gift to OAR

Even with everything going on in the world, we hope you found lots of moments of joy this month.

Elizabeth

A Participant's Journey: Andre's Experience



“Through community service, I met people I might never have known. We worked together, shared stories, and got things done. It felt good to contribute and to have people recognize what I brought to the day.”

Andre’s words capture something we value about community service: the opportunity for people to get to know one another while working together. Completing the hours matters. So does having your effort noticed and knowing that what you brought to the day made a difference.

At OAR, we use people-first and strength-based language and see participants as experts on themselves and leaders in their own lives and plans. We seek feedback and guidance from participants and tell their stories in ways that protect each person’s dignity and privacy. We do not use the actual names, photos, or videos of OAR participants.

Thank You: Green Valley

At Green Valley Day, OAR's Community Service team and participants helped set up tables and chairs, assisted vendors, directed traffic, and stayed for breakdown and cleanup.

Afterward, Green Valley Civic Association Volunteer Coordinator Yordanos Woldai sent a thoughtful thank-you message. Here is part of that message:

"What stood out most was their willingness to help with anything we asked, always with a positive attitude and a genuine spirit of service."

"Your volunteers helped everything run more smoothly and allowed us to focus on creating a welcoming and enjoyable day for our community."

Thank you to everyone who helped that day. And thank you to Green Valley Civic Association for taking the time to recognize their efforts. We were glad to be part of Green Valley Day!

Thank You: NAACP Arlington Branch



OAR

Arlington Branch's 2026 Freedom Fund Banquet



Pictured with Jay Jones Attorney General of Virgina and Ms. USA, Justus Kelly

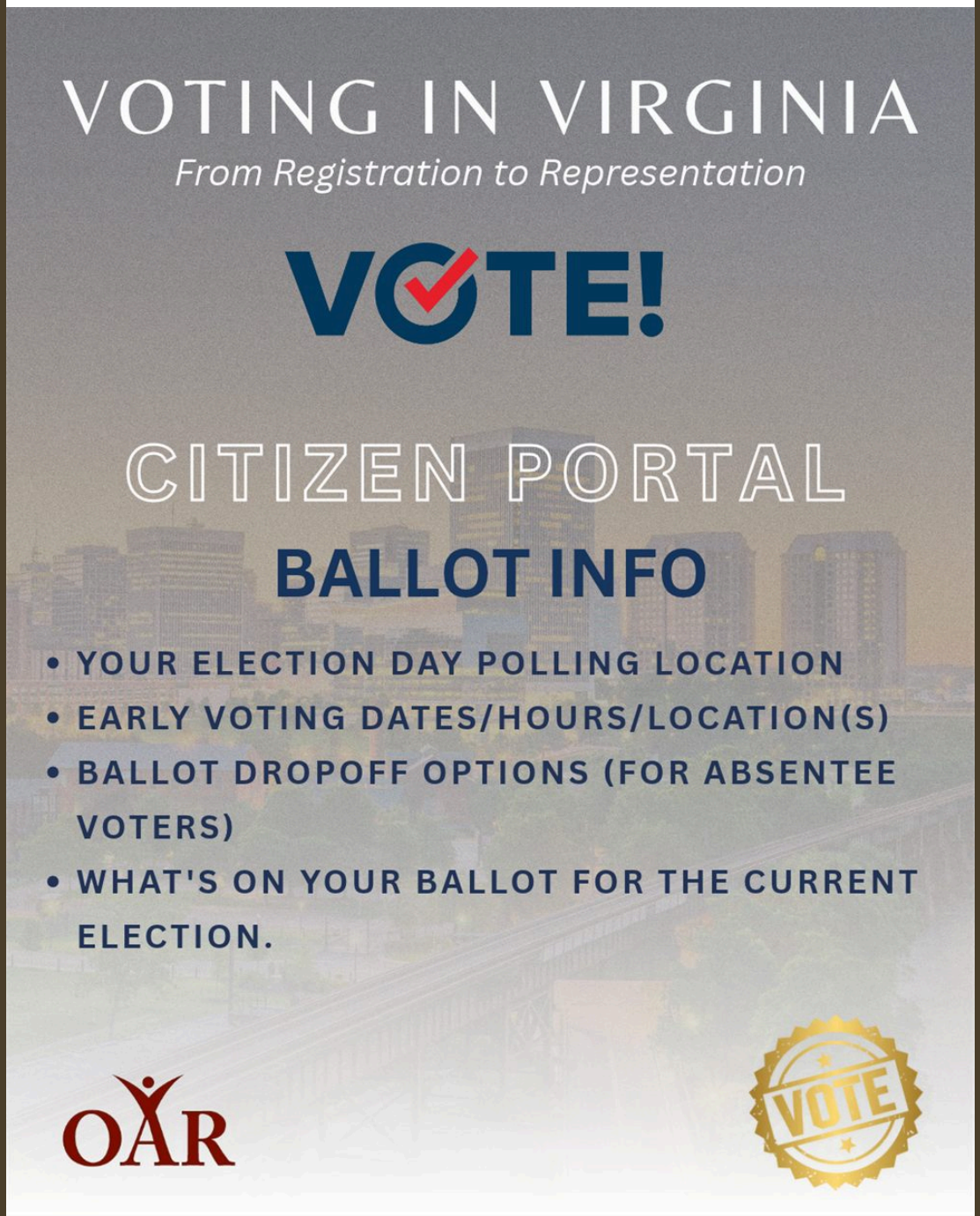
OAR was honored to receive the William W. Brittain Appreciation Award at NAACP Arlington Branch's 2026 Freedom Fund Banquet. OAR Collective members attended, and we were grateful to celebrate alongside others whose work we respect.

During the evening, we shared a hope that guides our work: that one day, OAR will no longer be needed.

Until then, we are grateful to have you and our partners who keep working alongside us toward justice, joy, and liberation.

Thank you to those who nominated OAR and to NAACP Arlington Branch for this recognition.

Voter Information: Virginia Citizen's Portal



As part of our Voter Education Series, we want to remind you that knowing what is on your ballot before you vote is one of the most powerful things you can do. Take time to research the candidates and measures on your ballot so they reflect your values and your vision for the community. Everything you need to know is in the Citizen Portal linked below.

Citizen Portal

A Reminder: Vote YES on Question 3



As you plan your vote, please remember **Question 3 on Virginia's November 3 ballot**. This proposed constitutional amendment would protect voting as a fundamental right and automatically restore voting rights for most people upon release from incarceration.

OAR's vision includes equal human and civil rights for individuals impacted by the criminal legal system. This is one way we can help move that vision forward.

We encourage you to vote YES on Question 3.

Read the official explanation of Question 3

Join Us at the Arlington Turkey Trot



Join OAR Collective members and friends on Thanksgiving morning, Thursday, November 26. OAR is proud to be a beneficiary, and your participation helps support our work and that of other local organizations.

You can run or walk. Bring your family and friends, and look for some familiar OAR faces along the way. Make the Arlington Turkey Trot part of your Thanksgiving tradition and come spend the morning with us!

Register for the 2026 Arlington Turkey Trot

Thank You: Faith Lutheran

Faith Lutheran Church welcomed OAR Collective members to speak during worship and selected OAR as its October Mission of the Month.

We appreciated the chance to share more about OAR and the individuals and families who journey with us. Thank you for the warm welcome and for making space for this conversation.

Faith's Mission of the Month offerings support OAR throughout October. We are grateful for your generosity and continued partnership.

Charlie's Barks of Wisdom: Charlie Turns 10!



Our beloved Ambassador of Happiness, Charlie, turned 10!

It is hard to put into words what this sweet soul means to everyone at OAR and to all of you who have followed along on his journey. He has spent so many days beside participants and Collective members, whether at the detention facility or here at the Welcome Center. We love him dearly.

Thank you to everyone who helped celebrate his birthday. It meant a lot to share this occasion with people who love him, too.

Charlie's advice this month:

"You don't always need to know what to say. Sometimes, sitting beside your person is enough. Birthday treats are welcome, too."

Happy birthday, Charlie. We love you!

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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

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