

Dear Friends of  
OAR,

This is my first  
issue of  
ONBOARD as  
your new Execu-  
tive Director.



I am honored to have been given the unique opportunity to guide OAR of Fairfax County in its role as a leader in restorative justice practices, not only in Virginia, but the country, as well.

This is a special time for all of us to be part of OAR's mission. We have a strong legacy of creating innovative programs and providing valuable services to the community.

There are many challenges ahead, but together we can shape OAR's exciting future as we reach new heights as an organization. I hope you will share the journey with me.

Thank you, Derwin

## DERWIN OVERTON SELECTED AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*"Together We Can Shape OAR's Exciting Future"*

Derwin Overton has been unanimously selected by the Board of Directors of Opportunities, Alternatives and Resources (OAR) of Fairfax County, Inc. to become OAR's new Executive Director. He succeeds Carla Taylor, who left to take a position with the City of Winchester.

"Mr. Overton was chosen from among several exceptional candidates in a very competitive process," said Christopher Connolly, OAR Board President. "The Board's decision is testimony to the confidence we have in Mr. Overton's leadership skills and his ability to meet OAR's challenges and opportunities in the years ahead," he said.

"I am grateful to our Board for giving me this special opportunity to continue to serve OAR," Mr. Overton said. "OAR has dedicated and loyal volunteers, broad community support, and very talented staff. We have a bright future together," he added.

Mr. Overton was the Community Program Director at OAR and has more than 14 years experience in non-profit human services administration, including having served as Assistant Director of the Embury Rucker Community Shelter in Reston before joining OAR in 2001.

A graduate of Leadership Fairfax's "Emerging Leaders" program, Mr. Overton is also chairman of the Fairfax Fatherhood collaborative and has been actively involved in administering the Responsible Fatherhood Program for jail inmates. A special project within the Responsible Fatherhood Program is "Stories for Children," which has received funding from the Freddie Mac Foundation and UniCare Health Systems.

As Community Program Director at OAR, Mr. Overton redesigned and developed the Work Empowerment Program which increased the agency's capacity to assist unemployed clients. Providing employment opportunities to ex-offenders is considered a key element in preventing recidivism among this population. Mr. Overton, 40, holds a bachelor's of science degree in psychology from Elizabeth City State University. A resident of Woodbridge, Mr. Overton is a native of Neptune, N.J.

## 'Community That Cares' Celebrates Volunteer Contributions

More than 80 volunteers, OAR Board members and staff, along with judges, elected officials, Sheriff's Office personnel, and government representatives, celebrated the annual "Community That Cares" volunteer recognition reception on May 18 at the Waterford at Fair Oaks Mall in Fairfax.

Derwin Overton, OAR Executive Director, introduced the special guests and Fairfax County Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (Hunter Mill District), whom Mr. Overton recognized for her vigorous support of OAR and her recent achievement in obtaining a Congressional grant to help replicate the Delancey Street project in Fairfax County. Mr. Overton also noted that "OAR's service to the community is only possible because of our very special volunteers."

Supervisor Hudgins offered opening remarks for the event and warmly welcomed the attendees. Supervisor Hudgins observed that OAR's successful services and programs



Keynote Speaker  
Christopher Fay of the  
Eisenhower Foundation

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**OAR** of  
Fairfax  
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Opportunities, Alternatives & Resources

Rebuilding Lives  
and  
Breaking the Cycle  
of Crime

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# INMATES HELP DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS

## *“Impact of Crime” Project Benefits Shelter for Women and Children*

True to the principles of restorative justice promoted by OAR, inmates at the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center made it possible for a check for \$420 to be presented recently to The Arlington Community Temporary Shelter (TACTS). The money came as a result of OAR’s Impact of Crime (IOC) T-shirt project. Inmates at the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center participating in the IOC program designed a domestic violence awareness T-shirt which were sold to benefit TACTS, the charity of their choice for the project. In her letter to Brandon Cosby, TACTS Executive Director Linda Dunphy wrote, “as a direct result of your support, TACTS will continue to provide shelter and a helping hand to those in need at a time of crisis in their lives.”

The T-shirt project described above is one example of the many community service projects that have been completed by OAR clients who have participated in the Impact of Crime program. Impact of Crime is an innovative program designed to assist offenders in taking responsibility and accountability for the crimes that they have committed. The participants in the program learn to demonstrate true accountability for their actions by admitting the harm they have caused and by taking steps to repair some of that harm by giving back to the community.

Participation in the Impact of Crime program is voluntary. During the program inmates have the unique opportunity to develop a very real understanding of the struggles that victims face in the aftermath of a crime. And this understanding is communicated by those with firsthand experience. Community members who come to the jail to speak to the participants have experienced a wide range of criminal victimization, such as having their car or wallet stolen, their home burglarized, their identity stolen, being assaulted, sexually abused, or suffering abuse as a child.

Surveys indicate that the Impact of Crime speakers leave an undeniable impression on class participants. The participants can no longer pretend that their actions didn’t hurt anyone. The realization that their actions had a serious impact on others inspires the program participants to give back to the community and to victims of crime. The T-shirt project was inspired by a volunteer speaker. She shared with the class her personal experiences with a horribly violent 30-year relationship. She told the program participants that when she finally found the strength to leave the relationship she sought help from TACTS. The new understanding and empathy for domestic violence victims inspired the program participants to complete a community service project that assisted other victims of domestic violence.



*L-R: Brandon Cosby, OAR Education & Training Director; Linda Dunphy, Executive Director, TACTS, and Rosanne Campbell, former Community Resources Coordinator, TACTS*

### ***DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO CAN HELP?***

If you or someone you know has been the victim of a crime and would be willing to share the experience with the Impact of Crime class please let us know. This can be a challenging volunteer opportunity but it can also be very fulfilling and worthwhile. Your story might be the one that inspires genuine change in an inmate’s future! All previous Impact of Crime volunteers have enjoyed their experience and felt very reassured by the process. Many steps are taken to ensure the comfort of the volunteer speaker. They are permitted to observe the class and/or tour the jail prior to volunteering in order to assess their comfort level with the task. Anyone interested in this opportunity should contact Brandon Cosby, Education and Training Director, at (703) 246-3065 or by e-mail at [bcosby@oarfairfax.org](mailto:bcosby@oarfairfax.org).

## Impact of Crime Class Publishes Cautionary 'Tales from Jail'

*No one has the right to commit an act that hurts  
another person--IOC Motto*

'Tales from Jail' is a series of 11 real-life stories written by inmates completing a recent Impact of Crime class as their community service project. These cautionary tales will be compiled into five books and given to the county's juvenile detention center for educational use at the facility. It is hoped the stories will help steer young people away from committing crimes in the future.

"The participants were exceptionally open and candid," said Courtney Jeffries, OAR case manager and IOC class instructor. "And in no way have they minimized the impact of their crimes," she noted.

Impact of Crime (IOC) classes usually run about 18 weeks or three to three and a half months and cover 13 different criminal justice topics. The class culminates in a community service project. Past projects have included developing an anti-crime poster for Metro buses and the anti-violence T-shirt described on the opposite page.

"Everyone who read these stories was impressed with how inmates accepted responsibility for their actions in describing their experiences," Ms. Jeffries said.

### Sample passages from "Tales from Jail."

"...don't ever think that any crime is a small one...because to the victim(s) it may be the biggest crime ever...."—from "Good or Bad Dad?"

"Nothing good comes from the use and abuse of drugs and nothing good comes from committing any type of crime. I'm one who knows so take it from me. Stay out of trouble and do the right thing."—from "Do the Right Thing"

"Just imagine your victim as a family member who happened to be enduring the same turmoil you are inflicting.... Life is too precious to be wasted. Don't rob yourself of it."—from "Robbing Yourself of Your Life"

For the full text of all "Tales from Jail" stories, visit: <http://www.oarfairfax.org/impact2.htm>



Cover design from  
inmate publication  
"Tales from Jail"

## OAR Welcomes New Staff Members

OAR is pleased to announce that Jenna Adams and Evelyn Snock recently joined the OAR staff and we welcome Matt Binninger, who has been selected to be OAR's summer intern, a position funded by Exxon-Mobil in cooperation with Volunteer Fairfax.

Jenna is a program assistant with the VASAVOR project which provides intensive "wrap-around" services to ex-offenders convicted of serious crimes who are returning to the community. The project's goal is to significantly reduce recidivism rates for this population. Jenna is a graduate of the University of Virginia with Bachelors degrees in Psychology and Linguistics. She is currently working on a M. A. in Forensic Psychology at Marymount University in Arlington, Virginia. Previously, Jenna was a background investigator.

Evelyn, who is a case manager, is working in the Alternative Sentencing and Court Program. Evelyn relocated to Northern Virginia from Southern California about a year ago and has experience as a Geriatric Social worker and worked for a social HMO in California. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Services with a minor in Gerontology and partial completion for Master of Science in Gerontology, both from California State University at Fullerton California.

Matt will be a Senior at the University of Virginia in the fall. After graduation in 2006, he plans to move to the west coast to pursue a career in law. A resident of Fairfax Station, Matt will be working in the Transitional and Family Services unit while completing his eight week paid internship at OAR. The Exxon-Mobil internship is offered annually to non-profits on a competitive basis.

### Support Groups and Training Opportunities

#### Family Support Group

Every 1st and 3rd Thursday at the  
OAR office from 7-9 p.m.

Call Lois Mitchell at: 703-246-3174

#### Volunteer Training

Call Fran Furman at 703-246-3055  
for the 2005 schedule

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have helped former offenders reverse the harm done to society in keeping with the true spirit and principles of restorative justice. This is essential in healing communities affected by crime, she said.

Keynote speaker, Christopher Fay, Director of the Delancey Street Replication Project at The Milton S. Eisenhower Foundation, told the assembled guests that just about every important movement in the world began with a few people—sometimes only one person—deciding to step forward to volunteer to make things happen for the good of others. Whether it was Rosa Parks or Mother Theresa, he said, they were willing as individuals to voluntarily take a bold action to help those marginalized by society.

Mr. Fay praised the OAR volunteers as shining examples of people committed to making our community a better place by helping rebuild the lives of current and former offenders. Mr. Fay told the gathering the story of his own life-changing experience after he was seriously injured in a car accident. He explained that a woman appeared from among a crowd of onlookers, rushed to his side and wrapped him in a blanket. She then took him in her arms and comforted him until help arrived. He never learned her name, but the experience was a turning point for him. He realized, he said, how important it was for one person to be willing to take action to help another.

**Donating through United Way?  
Designate #8285**

**OAR of Fairfax County, Inc.**

**Planned Giving Makes Sense**

*Thinking ahead? We all need to. Have you thought of OAR in your estate planning deliberations?*

*Remembering OAR in your will is a generous way to make a lasting gift to OAR's mission—a mission you have loyally supported over the years. Thank you!*

**ONBOARD BY E-MAIL**

To receive ONBOARD by e-mail send your e-mail address to: info@oarfairfax.org

The highlight of the evening was the awards ceremony when eight different awards were presented to individuals, employers and organizations. The following awardees were recognized for their efforts in support of OAR's mission:

**Monica Carra** of Springfield  
*Volunteer Instructor of the Year*



**Christopher Fay** of Washington, D.C.  
*Nancy Cornelius Award for Outstanding Leadership and Support in the Criminal Justice Community*



**Michael Malovic** of Fairfax Station  
*Volunteer Mentor of the Year*



**William Roche** of Springfield  
*Marjorie Ginsburg Award for Outstanding Work with Family Members*



**Fairfax County Government Archives & Records**  
*Court Programs Outstanding Work Site*



**Gabro Printing and Graphics**  
*Corporate Partnership Award*



**Modern Diaper Company**  
*Work Empowerment Employer of the Year*



**UniCare Health Systems of Virginia, Inc.**  
*William Sandweg Award for Exceptional Support of OAR*

“OAR volunteers are very special and I am always humbled by their giving spirit,” said Fran Furman, OAR Volunteer Coordinator. “OAR thanks them for their generous hearts and helping hands,” she added.

**To see photos of the event, visit:  
www.oarfairfax.org; click on “OAR News.”**

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