



# THE BULLETIN B\*OAR\*D

e-News from OAR of Fairfax County, Inc.

"REBUILDING LIVES AND BREAKING THE CYCLE OF CRIME "

November/2010

Issue: 11

## Happy Thanksgiving!

The Board, volunteers and staff at OAR of Fairfax County wish our many supporters and friends a wonderful Thanksgiving Holiday!

We are grateful for everything you've done to help us help others!

### ...FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A Report on the Second Chance Act Grant for Mentoring and Support Services

Earlier this year, OAR was one of about three dozen organizations in the U.S. to win funding under the first round of the Department of Justice's new Second Chance Act for "Mentoring and Transitional Services" for formerly incarcerated persons. This was a national competitive process and our success in securing this two-year grant was a significant achievement for OAR of Fairfax County.

At this time, then, I want to report on our progress so far. But first a bit of background.

The purpose of the grant was twofold: first, to expand OAR's mentoring capacity so inmates at the jail could have a mentor who would provide support to them after release. At present, mentors only help inmates while incarcerated. Second, funding would be used to support transitional services provided at Beacon House, our residential and training program.

Like any new effort, it took time to get started. Finding and training mentors who could make a long-term commitment to inmates was challenging but we were able to draw upon the best resource we have: the supportive members of the Fairfax County community. We are now well on our way and ahead of schedule with the goals set for the grant. Here are a few highlights about how we are doing:

- Recruited an trained 43 volunteer mentors
- Two trainings held for mentors on the topics of goals setting and boundaries
- A mentoring coordinator and residential counselor were hired
- 12 mentors were matched with inmates
- Two new participants joined the Beacon program; one graduated from the program
- Lease renewed for Beacon House

### In This Issue

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### News to Use

#### FUNDING UPDATE...

The Community Foundation for Greater Washington has awarded OAR a grant of \$10,000 from its "Neighbors in Need Fund" to help meet our clients' emergency needs.

#### IN THE NEWS...

OAR's partnership with George Mason University's psychology research team studying OAR jail-based programs will continue for another five years thanks to a grant from the National Institute on Drugs. Funding will permit the longitudinal study of recidivism among program participants as well as other research goals.

#### Faith Communities and Civitans Help OAR of Fairfax County

We gratefully acknowledge recent donations from St. Francis of Assisi Church in Triangle, Kirkwood Presbyterian Church in Springfield and the Civitan Club of Fairfax. Thank you for your support of our mission!

- New partnerships established with Habitat for Humanity and First Vienna Baptist church

If you have questions or comments about our report, please e-mail: [info@oarfairfax.org](mailto:info@oarfairfax.org). Thank you, Derwin Overton, Executive Director.

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

*That in the U.S., 1 in 28 children has a parent behind bars*

"These kids often struggle with anxiety, depression, learning problems, and aggression - undermining their own chances to succeed," Attorney General Eric Holder said recently. "In many cases, maintaining family relationships during incarceration can improve the lives of these children and reduce recidivism rates later on." He added: "When quality, employment-centered programs are made available during and after incarceration, one demonstration showed they can cut recidivism rates in half."

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