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New Programs in Prince William and Loudon Counties Help Incarcerated Return to Community Life

Fairfax, VA --- OAR announced today it will offer pre-release services for criminal justice involved citizens in Prince William County, and will expand its pre-release services in Loudoun County. The increase in services is possible due to a generous grant from the Apex Foundation.

Best practice standards indicate the most effective way to assist the incarcerated is to engage with an individual prior to release from incarceration and provide re-entry services for up to 12 months after release as the individual transitions into the community. With funding from the Apex Foundation, OAR will provide release preparation services in Prince William County to compliment the post-release case management services currently being provided.

In Loudoun County, OAR has established pre and post-release programs, but pre-release programs have been limited to Employability and Life Skills courses. The Loudoun County Sheriff's office has expressed a desire for additional jail-based programs. OAR surveyed the population of inmates and determined a great need for and interest in its Fatherhood program, which it will now offer.

"OAR's Fatherhood program prepares individuals nearing release to engage in healthy relationships with their children and their children's mother. The program encourages greater parental involvement, more stable families, and creates greater community safety," said Derwin Overton, Executive Director of OAR.

"The Apex Foundation aims to support programs that assist and inspire people to achieve self-sufficiency. We are pleased to support OAR's work which helps empower individuals impacted by the criminal justice system to take control of their lives and successfully integrate back into society," commented Dr. Shashikant Gupta, CEO, Apex CoVantage.

More information about OAR's programs and services can be found at www.oarfairfax.org or by calling (703) 246-3184.

About OAR

OAR is a local non-profit restorative justice organization providing human services since 1971. Our mission is to rebuild lives and break the cycle of crime with opportunities, alternatives, and resources for offenders and their families to create a safer community. OAR works with persons involved in the criminal justice system and their families.