**MISSION**
The mission of OAR, is to rebuild lives and break the cycle of crime with Opportunities, Alternatives & Resources for offenders and their families to create a safer community.

**FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP**
The Family Support Group offers a safe environment for the family and friends of those incarcerated to meet with one another and a trained facilitator to share their experiences and the challenges related to incarceration and the criminal justice system.

**COMMON TOPICS OF DISCUSSION:**

Navigating the court system
- What can I expect in the court process?
- Where can I access information related to court proceedings, lawyers, etc.?

The nature of incarceration
- What can I expect when I visit my loved one?
- What is life in prison/jail like?

Planning for release
- How do I prepare for my loved one to come home?
- How can I help them with housing and employment?

OAR will frequently invite speakers working in Criminal Justice, Probation, and other Legal and Social Service fields to provide their expertise and address member’s questions and concerns.

**OTHER FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES**

At OAR we believe that arrest and/or incarceration affect not only the individual involved with the criminal justice system, but also the families and loved ones of that person. Families and loved ones often have multiple struggles of their own when dealing with the criminal justice system. The Family Support Group is meant to be a source of support during this time.

Those with loved ones incarcerated have unique emotional needs. Time is regularly devoted to discussing self-care and stress management.

Family members may also be eligible for employment assistance through OAR. Employment services include resume preparation, interview skills workshops, job readiness training, employer referrals, and other work-related assistance.

Case management services are also available to the family members of individuals who are incarcerated. These services would include coordinating referrals for direct assistance with needs such as rent, utilities, food, clothing and other emergencies.

**OAR PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR THOSE INCARCERATED**

Family members often ask about services available to their loved ones while incarcerated. OAR offers case management and release preparation programs for individuals at the Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William Adult Detention Centers. All services are free of charge and included programs such as:
- Anger Management
- Computer Skills
- Employment and Workforce Skills
- Fatherhood and Parenting
- Impact of Crime
- Life Skills
- Mentoring
- MoneySmart
- Release Planning

OAR programs and services are available for men and women. Some programs are available in Spanish. Services vary by facility. Incarcerated individuals can use an Inmate Request Form to inquire about participation in OAR programs.
FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP

PURPOSE
The Family Support Group is offered to adults who have loved ones that have been or are involved in the criminal justice system. The group is a place for families and friends to come for support, advice, and a listening ear. Group members discuss topics related to the criminal justice system, incarceration, and post-incarceration transitions. The group is facilitated by OAR’s staff.

WHEN
The group meets on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month. Obtain additional details and RSVP at info@oarnova.org or call (703) 246-3033 for more information.

WHERE
The group currently meets at the OAR main office in Fairfax.

WHY
To provide a safe place for family and friends to share common concerns, explore resolutions, and access resources.

COST
The group is offered at no charge.