



Established 1971  
BREAKING THE CYCLE OF CRIME WITH  
OPPORTUNITIES, ALTERNATIVES, AND RESOURCES

## Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **A COMMUNITY CONVERSATION ABOUT ALTERNATIVE SENTENCING PROGRAMS**

**FAIRFAX, VA** — OAR is hosting a Facebook Live Event entitled “Restoring More than Justice”. This event will be held virtually on May 6, 2021 @ 7:00pm. The event is free, and anyone can register at <http://bit.ly/3lrgfpk>. This virtual discussion is about Alternative Sentencing in lieu of jail time and/or convictions for non-violent, misdemeanor defendants and the benefits to individuals and the community. The virtual discussion features area legal professionals: Fairfax County Commonwealth Attorney Steven Descano, Loudoun County Commonwealth Attorney Buta Biberaj, and Fairfax County General District Judge Michael Lindner. These professionals will speak to the challenges, opportunities, and benefits of alternative sentencing programs and what these programs could look like in the future. Executive Director, Derwin Overton says, “Alternative sentencing has proven to be valuable because it provides OAR clients with an option to give back to the community. It also reduces the number of people in the judicial system, provides support for non-profits through community service, and can allow defendants to participate in a restorative process.”

#### **About OAR**

OAR is a local non-profit restorative justice organization providing human services since 1971. Our mission is to rebuild lives and create a safer community with opportunities, alternatives, and resources for justice-involved individuals and families. OAR has facilitated alternative sentencing programs for more than 30 years. Each year nearly 1,000 individuals participate in the program and have their criminal cases dismissed. This results in more than 25,000 hours of community services for local non-profits and saves taxpayers approximately \$300,000 per year in incarceration costs.

More information about the Community Conversation can be found at [www.oarnova.org](http://www.oarnova.org) or by calling (703) 246-3184.

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