



The PCI Portal

A Monthly Newsletter from Porto Charities, Inc.

At Porto Charities, Inc. our mission is to increase the educational and employment opportunities available to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities through grants and advocacy programs supporting the Catholic Diocese of Arlington, VA.

[Visit our Website](#)

[Donate Now](#)

Follow us on social media to stay up to date on our events!



From the Director's Desk...



2023 Porto Charities Board of Directors

Dear Friends,

A new year...new challenges...new education & employment opportunities...and a new signature event!

The team here at Porto Charities looks forward to sharing all the plans we've been making for 2023 to better serve you and the Diocese of Arlington as our partners in continuing to embrace inclusive Catholic education and employment for all.

After our annual meeting with Bishop Burbidge in early January, the entire Porto Charities Board of Directors and Staff got together on a recent Saturday morning for our annual meeting and planning session.

Excitement was high...participation and discussion were amazing...and all were in

agreement that this year will be a pivotal year for advancing our mission and vision; as well as increasing our fundraising goals to provide more support for those parishes and schools looking to start or expand an inclusive education and/or employment program for the intellectually and developmentally disabled young people in their parish community.

We are ready to roll!

Larry Rzepka
Executive Director

Fr. Richard Miserendino Joins Porto Board of Directors



Porto Charities is honored to announce that Father Richard Miserendino has recently been elected to the Porto Charities Board of Directors.

Father Rich currently serves as the Parochial Vicar for St. Bernadette's Catholic Church in Springfield.

Welcome Father Rich!

"Porto Charities Presents"



ABLEnow
is hosting a webinar for
Porto Charities
February 23rd, 2023 at 7:00pm EST
Register Today at: bit.ly/portoweinars

More independence, greater financial security and a better quality of life – that's the future ABLEnow is building.

Discover the advantages of ABLE accounts and the national ABLEnow program.

During this session, we will cover:

- ✓ What is an ABLEnow account?
- ✓ Who is eligible?
- ✓ How an ABLEnow account can be used
- ✓ Features and benefits of ABLEnow

Questions? Send them to
ExecDirector@PortoCharities.org

ABLEnow.com | 1.844.NOW.ABLE

Call 1-844-NOW-ABLE or visit able-now.com to obtain information on the program. Seek the advice of a professional concerning any financial, tax, legal or federal or state benefit implications related to opening and maintaining an ABLEnow account. Participating in ABLEnow or ABLEAmerica involves investment risk including the possible loss of principal. For non-Virginia residents, other states may sponsor an ABLE plan that offers state tax or other benefit not available through ABLEnow. © 2020-2022 Virginia College Savings Plan. All Rights Reserved.

To register for this very informative and important webinar, either point your camera at the QR code and follow directions or simply hit the button below!

Register Now



Porto Charities 1st Annual Inclusion Awards

SAVE THE DATE!

With the blessings and support of Bishop Michael Burbidge and in recognition of the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the first inclusive Catholic education program in the Diocese of Arlington, the PCI Board of Directors is pleased to announce an evening of recognition, celebration and affirmation.



Details coming soon!

Porto Ambassador Opportunities



Meet our first two official Porto Ambassadors...Tris and Rich Miserendino have volunteered to be our ambassadors to Nativity

Porto Charities Ambassador *(part-time volunteer positions)*

Porto Charities believes that individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities deserve to reach their full potential by receiving an enriching Catholic education and securing meaningful employment.

Porto Ambassadors play an important role in helping Porto Charities build awareness and raise funds while serving as advocates to their local schools, parishes & businesses for the inclusion of these individuals in our communities. A **Porto Ambassador** serves as a part-time volunteer and liaison between Porto Charities and their local schools, parishes, and

Catholic Church Parish in Burke.

organizations to provide a "direct link" with Porto Charities.

To read a full job description, please click this [link](#).

If you are interested in becoming one of our Porto Ambassadors, please contact: Larry Rzepka at execdirector@portocharities.org.

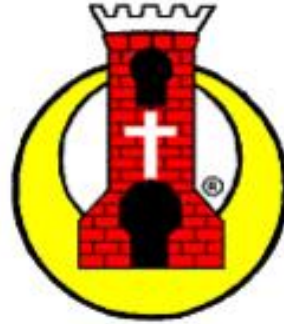
Scholarship Opportunity

Alhambra Scholarship Program

The Alhambra Scholarship award assists students studying to teach individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities. Master Degree students who are specializing in teaching special education and who have accrued 50% of required graduation credits will be eligible. Scholarships are also available to university junior or senior students who are enrolled in qualifying programs and are undertaking teaching special education. The number of scholarships and amounts will vary from year to year, based on scholarship program fund levels.

For a Scholarship applications please click this [link](#).

Completed applications must be received by Bill Mundy (BillM10049@aol.com) no later than Tuesday, February 28.



The International Order of Alhambra, a fraternal organization of Catholic men and women dedicated to assisting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, was founded in February 1904.

Inclusive Valentine's Day Events

Porto Charities has partnered with the American Heritage Girls in Falls Church and Fredericksburg to host 2 inclusive Valentine's events. See flyers below for details.

Fredericksburg Feb 10

6:30pm

RSVP: joycebodoh@gmail.com

Falls Church Feb 11

11:00am -12:30 pm

RSVP: colleen.oboyle@gmail.com



Celebrate Valentine's



With Porto Charities &
American Heritage Girls
Troop #VA0128

10

February

6:30 pm

St. Mary of the Immaculate Church
Father Rooney's room (crosses)

CRAFTS | MUSIC | FOOD | GAMES

RSVP at: joycebodoh@gmail.com

Those with disabilities and
their families are invited for
fun and fellowship.



Celebrate



Valentine's Day

With Porto Charities &
the American Heritage Girls Troop VA 0681

11

February

11:00 am-

12:30 pm



Mary Riley Styles Library
120 N. Virginia Ave.
Falls Church, VA

CRAFTS | MUSIC | FOOD | GAMES

RSVP to colleen.oboyle@gmail.com

However we differ, big
or small, Jesus the Savior
has a heart for us all!



Check Your Records!

Several months ago we changed our
mailing address. Please check your
records to make sure you have our correct
address on file to reach us by mail.

Our current address is:

Porto Charities, Inc.
10660 Page Ave, # 4446
Fairfax, VA 22038



I'm Feeling Generous

Porto Charities Inc is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, charitable and educational organization (Tax ID #30-0544129).
Contributions to Porto Charities are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.

Porto Charities Inc. | 10660 Page Ave, #4446, Fairfax, VA 22038

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