



Embracing Catholic Education[®]
&
Meaningful Employment for All

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



Dear Friends:

God has created each one of us in His image and has endowed each of us with unique dignity and purpose. This truth is at the center of our work at Porto Charities.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of Porto Charities, thank you for your continued partnership as we build a culture of life and true belonging for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



The challenges of this work are profound. Nationwide, less than 18% of Catholic school leaders report that they educate students with intellectual disabilities. On the employment front, less than 20% of adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities have jobs. We know there is so much to be done. We are pleased to report that we are making great progress in the Diocese of Arlington.

Thanks to your generous support, since our inception, Porto Charities has invested more than \$2.3 million in Catholic education and employment in the Diocese of Arlington. This year, Porto Charities launched the new Center for Learning and Leadership, which brings together all of Porto's education initiatives under one umbrella to equip Catholic schools and educators with the tools they need to meet the needs of students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We are completing a comprehensive business plan to expand PortoWorks to respond to the high demand for employment support in the community. We also provide regular opportunities for families to connect, including hosting monthly coffees as well as social and educational events throughout the year.

Porto Charities is committed to being faithful and transparent stewards of the precious gifts you have entrusted to us. In 2025, we earned a four-star rating from Charity Navigator – their highest designation awarded to less than 1% of registered non-profits. We are blessed with the leadership and commitment of Bishop Michael Burbidge and grateful for the 58 parishes, college chapels, and mission churches that took part in our Special Kids/Special Needs campaign in 2025. To sustain and expand our work, we have established the Porto Charities Endowment with the Catholic Foundation of Arlington. This will ensure we have a dedicated investment fund for generations to come.

With our steadily increasing financial strength comes our steadily increasing dreams. We look forward to the day that EVERY student with disabilities is welcomed in our Catholic schools; when EVERY educator has the training and resources they need to be successful with diverse learners; and where EVERY person with a disability experiences the dignity of meaningful work.

Your gifts, leads on employment opportunities, and prayers for our work and the families we serve mean the world to us. Thank you for being part of the Porto Charities family!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leo Alonso".

Leo Alonso, President/CEO





“We are God’s beloved children. This reality is at the heart of the work of Porto Charities. We reaffirm the dignity that belongs to all persons as children of God. We extend compassion and assistance to those who need us the most, including our brothers and sisters with physical, intellectual, and emotional disabilities. We seek to provide education and employment for all. In other words, in carrying out its mission, Porto Charities proclaims that all of God’s children without exception are to be loved, treasured, and embraced.”

—Most Rev. Michael F. Burbidge, Bishop, Diocese of Arlington

Our Mission

Porto Charities is a 501(c)(3) non-profit that builds a culture of belonging for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities by increasing their educational, employment, and community engagement opportunities in the Catholic Diocese of Arlington.

1 Catholic Education

We provide grants for Catholic schools and professional development for educators and school leaders to help them meet the needs of students with disabilities.

2 Meaningful Employment

We facilitate meaningful employment for young adults with disabilities to work at parishes, schools, local businesses, and the Chancery.

3 Community Engagement

We engage the wider community through advocacy, events, and experiences where people of all abilities participate.

2025 Revenue

\$862,320

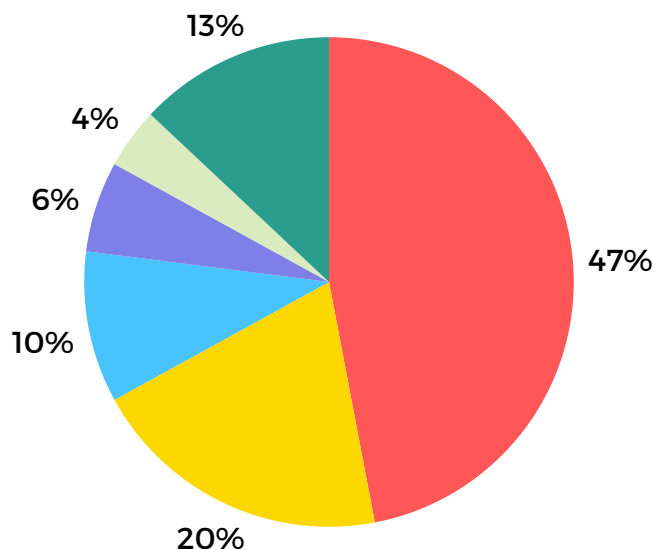
2025 Expenses

\$638,963



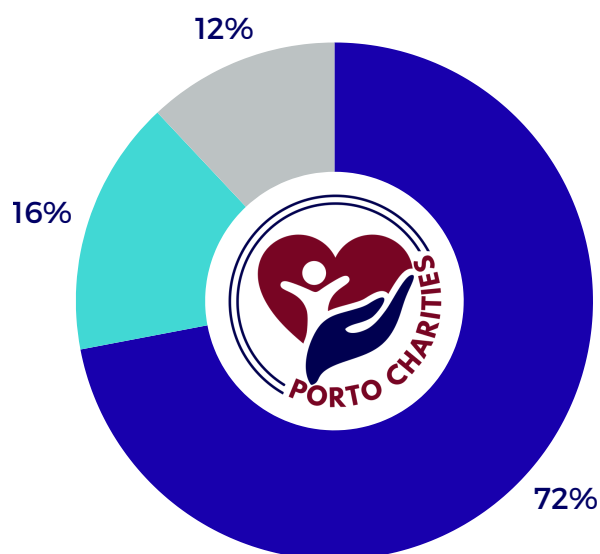
These data are from Porto Charities' Audited Financial Statement for the year ending December 31, 2025. A copy of the full report and additional detailed financial information is available at:
www.portocharities.org/about

2025 Revenue



- Advocacy Awards Gala
- Special Kids/Special Needs Campaign
- Annual Golf Tournament
- Restricted Donations
- Grants & Conference/Events
- Annual Giving

2025 Expenses

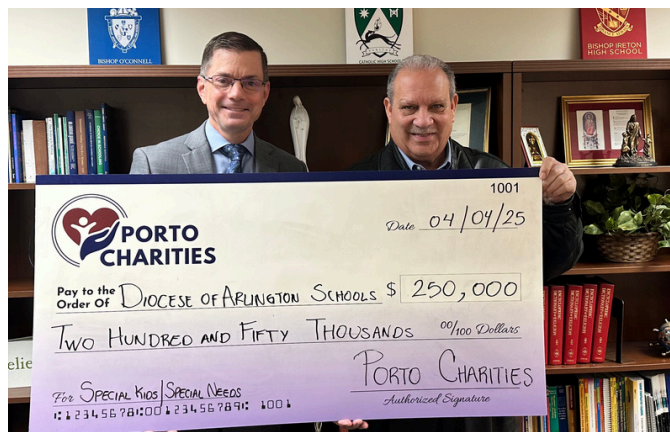
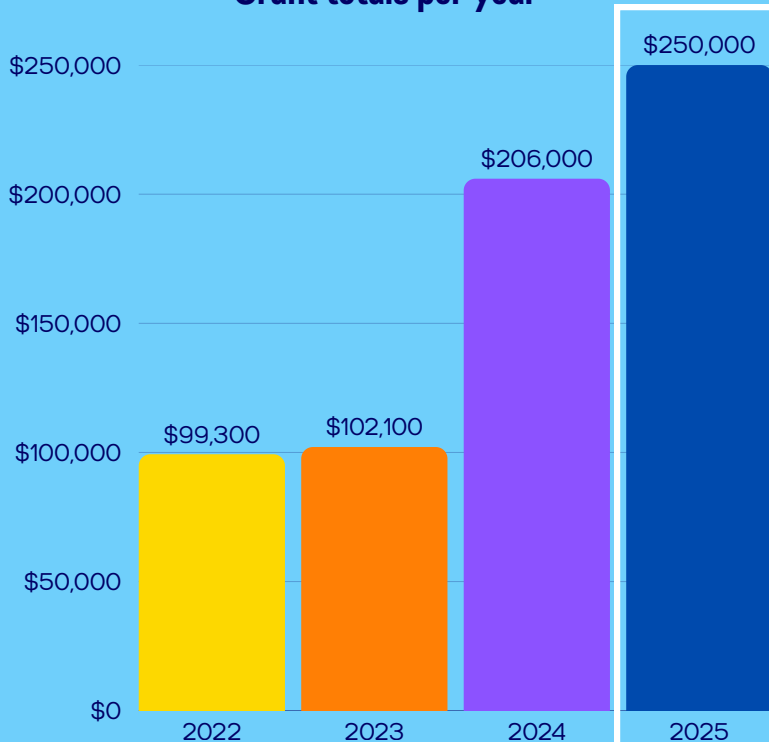


- Programs/Services
- Administration
- Fundraising

18 Grantee Schools in 2025

Basilica School of St. Mary
 Bishop Ireton High School
 Bishop O'Connell High School
 Blessed Sacrament Catholic School
 Cathedral School of St. Thomas More
 Nativity Catholic School
 Epiphany School
 Holy Spirit Catholic School
 Queen of Apostles Catholic School
 St. John Paul the Great High School
 St. Ambrose Catholic School
 St. Bernadette Catholic School
 St. Louis Catholic School
 St. Mark Catholic School
 St. Mary Preschool
 St. Patrick Catholic School
 St. Paul VI High School
 St. Timothy Catholic School

Grant totals per year



161

students with intellectual and developmental disabilities served in Porto grantee schools

1,463

students with an identified disability served in Porto grantee schools

9,030

students enriched by inclusive programs in Porto grantee schools

18

educators and volunteers received a tuition-free, graduate-level Introduction to Special Education course at George Mason University.

40+

educators participated in our conference and webinars for professional development in inclusive education

Since 2025, Porto Charities has invested \$750,000 in Catholic education – including school grants, scholarships and training opportunities for educators.

Your Donations at Work

Your Donations At Work



30 EMPLOYEES

with disabilities, currently have meaningful employment through our PortoWorks program.

160 CHILDREN

experienced belonging at their parish through sacramental preparation programs that receive our financial support.

300+ PARENTS

equipped with knowledge in financial planning, community resources, and more at our conference and webinars.

600+ FAMILIES

engaged at our various fundraising and friend-raising events hosted throughout the year.

4,000+ PEOPLE

learned about the gifts and needs of people with disabilities through our social media, newsletter and website.



"Meeting the needs of learners with intellectual and learning needs is not always easy, but it is always a blessing, and I'm so grateful for the gift of each of these students in our community."

*-Mrs. Wanda Anderson
Educator
St. Thomas More Cathedral School*



"My experience with Peer Mentoring has truly been unmatched. It allowed me to come out of my comfort zone and inspired me to pursue a career in Special Education."

*-Jordan Smith Jr.
Peer Mentor
Paul VI Catholic HS*



I feel so blessed to work at a Catholic School where I can deepen my faith each and every day, and where I can help my co-workers and the students to the best of my abilities.

*-Ryan Wozniak
Instructional Assistant
St. Timothy School*





We are incredibly grateful to the 58 of 76 parishes and mission churches in the Diocese of Arlington that contributed \$176,000 to the 2025 Special Kids/Special Needs campaign.

All Saints Catholic Church	St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church	St. Isidore the Farmer Catholic Church
Cathedral of St. Thomas More	St. John Neumann Catholic Church
Christ the Redeemer Catholic Church	St. John the Baptist Catholic Church
Church of the Nativity	St. John the Beloved Catholic Church
Good Shepherd Catholic Church	St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church
Holy Family Catholic Church	St. Joseph Catholic Church (Alexandria)
Holy Spirit Catholic Church	St. Joseph Catholic Church (Herndon)
Holy Trinity Catholic Church	St. Jude Catholic Church
Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church	St. Katharine Drexel Mission
Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church	St. Lawrence Catholic Church
Our Lady of Hope Catholic Church	St. Leo the Great Catholic Church
Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church	St. Luke Catholic Church
Our Lady of the Blue Ridge Catholic Church	St. Mark Catholic Church
Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church	St. Mary of Sorrows Catholic Church
Precious Blood Catholic Church	St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception
Queen of Apostles Catholic Church	St. Matthew Catholic Church
St. Agnes Catholic Church	St. Michael Catholic Church
St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church	St. Patrick Catholic Church
St. Ann Catholic Church	St. Paul's Catholic Church
St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church	St. Philip Catholic Church
St. Anthony of King George Mission	St. Raymond of Peñafort Catholic Church
St. Bernadette Catholic Church	St. Rita Catholic Church
St. Bridget of Ireland Catholic Church	St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic Church
St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church	St. Thomas à Becket Catholic Church
St. Charles Catholic Church	St. Timothy Catholic Church
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church	St. Veronica Catholic Church
St. Elizabeth of Hungary Catholic Church	St. William of York Catholic Church
St. Francis de Sales Church (Kilmarnock)	The Basilica of St. Mary



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ARLINGTON



DESMARAIS LLP



St Mary of the Immaculate Conception
Roman Catholic Church
Fredericksburg, Virginia



Teresa M. Talierco, MA, LPC
Individual and Family Psychotherapy
McLEAN, VA
teresatalierco@gmail.com



2025 Business Partnerships



Saint-themed Trunk or Treat



Diocesan Disability Mass



Valentine's Day Party

True belonging means being seen, known, and valued.



Embrace Awards Gala



Bowling Outing



Monthly Parent Coffee



Christmas Party



Golf Tournament

Executive Officers

Leo Alonso, President/CEO

Tony Stafford, Vice President

Art Bennett, Secretary

Special Kids/Special Needs Campaign Chair

John Reidt, Treasurer

Jerry Pelano, Development Chair

Christine Fowler, Employment Chair

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Director, Center for Learning and Leadership

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Justin Wilcox

Governance Chair

Staff

Kathryn Doherty, Chief Operating Officer

Guadalupe Williamson, Communications Coordinator

Carmen Chiappetta, Outreach Coordinator

Anita Phares, Executive Assistant



Bishop Michael F. Burbidge presents Leo Alonso with the Benemerenti Medal in August 2025. Bestowed by Pope Leo XIV in celebration of the Diocese of Arlington's Golden Jubilee, the papal honor recognizes Alonso's more than 40 years of service to the disability community.



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&
Meaningful Employment for All

10660 Page Avenue, #4446,
Fairfax, Virginia 22038

EMBRACING BELONGING ALL YEAR LONG

OCTOBER 2, 2026
Golf
Tournament

OCTOBER 11, 2026
Annual
Mass

DECEMBER 5, 2026
Christmas
Party

MARCH 6, 2027
Conference
on Disability

APRIL 23, 2027
Embrace
Awards Gala



Please consider a gift to support the mission of Porto Charities!
Together we will continue to build a culture of life and true
belonging in the Diocese of Arlington. Please visit:

www.portocharities.org

Connect with us on:



Porto Charities is a 501 (c) (3) organization. Tax ID #30-0544129