



Building a Culture of True Belonging

2024

ANNUAL  
REPORT



[www.portocharities.org](http://www.portocharities.org)

# Letter from the President

Dear Friends:

I'm pleased to share Porto Charities' 2024 Annual Report, highlighting a remarkable year of growth in our programs for students and young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We are grateful for your commitment to fostering a culture of true belonging for individuals with disabilities in our parishes, schools, communities, and workplaces within the Diocese of Arlington.



Together, we're ensuring access to faith, Catholic education, and meaningful job opportunities. Over the past decade, Porto Charities has provided \$1.5 million in grants to Catholic schools in the Diocese. We've expanded our programs to include teacher scholarships and graduate-level educational opportunities for Catholic school teachers. We are providing resources to religious education programs that prepare children with disabilities to receive the sacraments. And with your support, we are increasing access to fulfilling work and independence for young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities through our PortoWorks initiative.

As Bishop Michael Burbidge explained it at our 2024 Embrace Gala, "This reality is at the heart of the work of Porto Charities. We recognize, respect, and reaffirm the dignity that belongs to all persons as children of God... Porto Charities proclaims that all of God's children without exception are to be loved, treasured, and embraced."

Porto Charities has set a strategic goal to raise \$1 million this year to provide more resources and services than ever before to support students and young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Please consider a gift in 2025 to help us reach this milestone. We are proud to have received the highest ratings this year from Charity Navigator and Candid for our diligent stewardship of your generous gifts.

Together we can ensure that all people with disabilities are seen, known, and valued.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Leo Alonso". The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a white background.

Leo Alonso, President/CEO







# Our Vision

All individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the Catholic Diocese of Arlington will be embraced, valued, and included in the life of the Church and their communities.

## 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

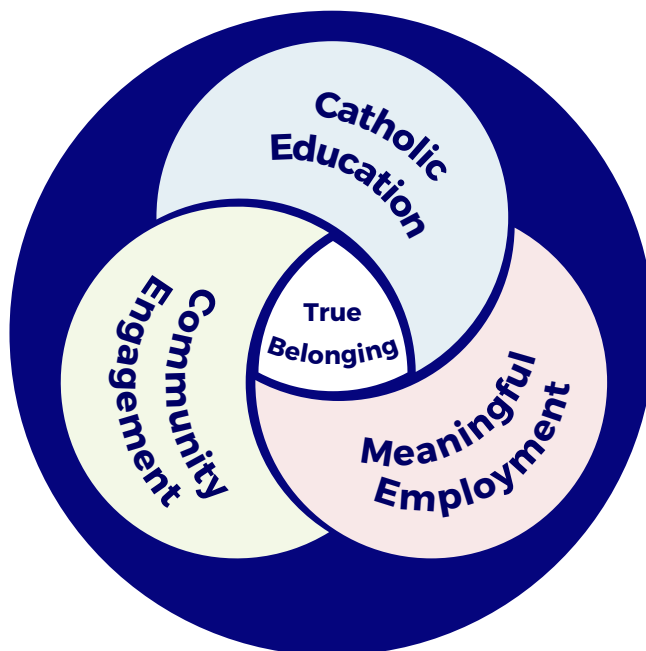
We provide grants for Catholic schools and professional development for educators to help them meet the needs of students with disabilities.

### 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 community through events and experiences where people of all abilities participate.



**True Belonging  
means being seen,  
known, and valued.**

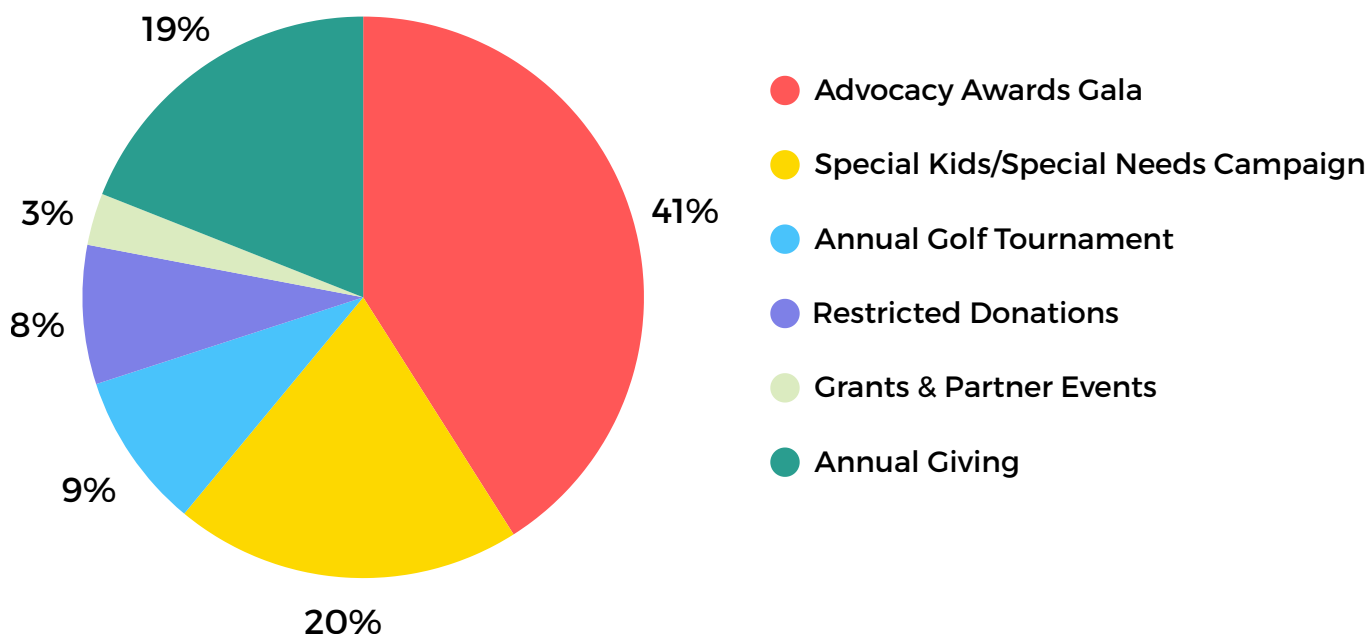
**Building a Culture of Belonging**

**CY 2024 Revenue**  
**\$803,816**

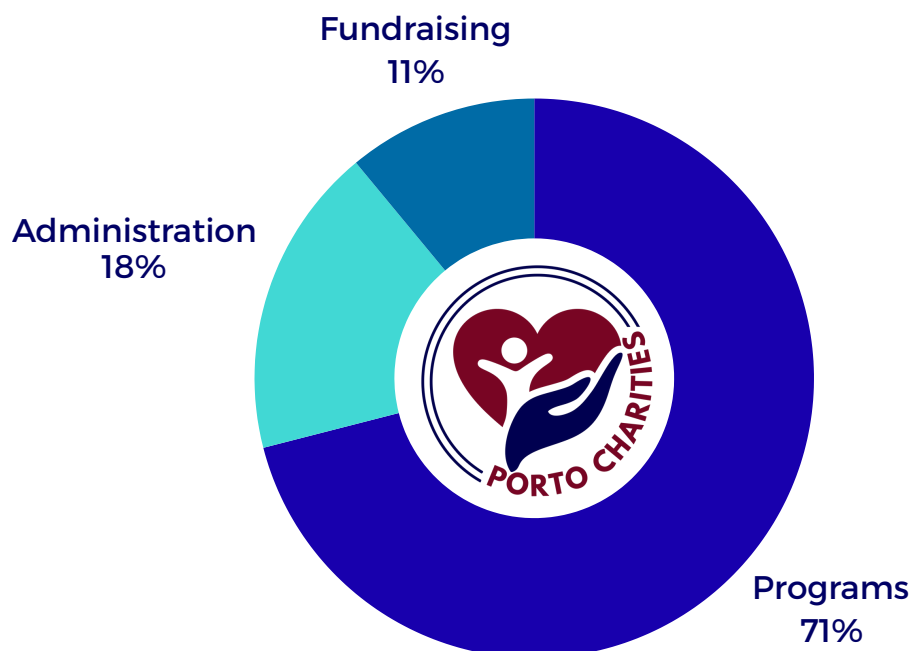
**CY 2024 Expenses**  
**\$507,978**

**CY 2024 Assets**  
**\$754,194**

## 2024 Revenue Sources (Jan. 1, 2024 - Dec. 31, 2024)



## 2024 Expenses (Jan. 1, 2024 - Dec. 31, 2024)



**Based on final 2024 Audit results**

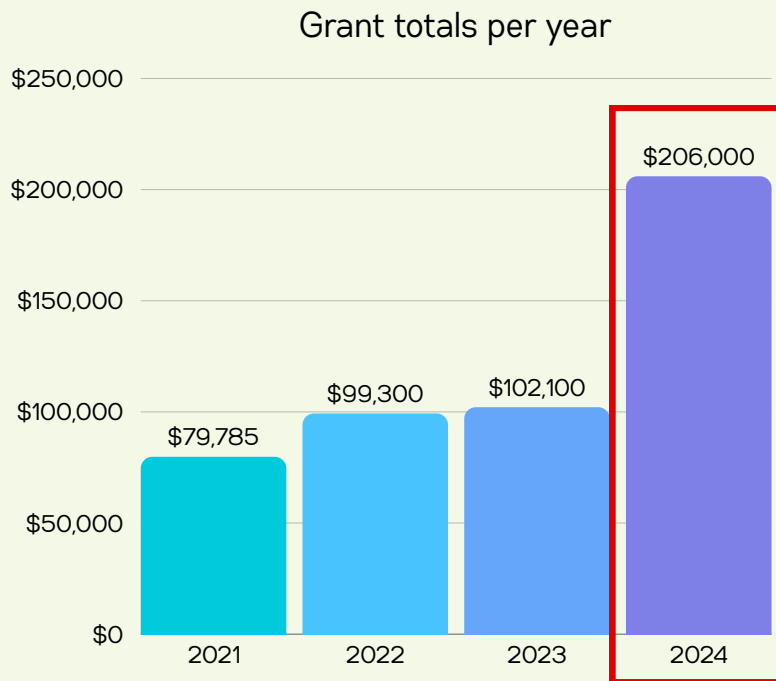
Access Full Audit Report: [www.portocharities.org/about](http://www.portocharities.org/about)



**Porto Charities has given \$1.5 million since our inception and your generous support allowed us to serve more families than ever in 2024!**

### 15 Grantee Schools in 2024

Bishop Ireton High School  
 Bishop O'Connell High School  
 Holy Family Catholic School  
 Holy Spirit Catholic School  
 Saint Paul VI High School  
 Saint John Paul the Great HS  
 Siena Academy  
 St. Anthony Catholic School  
 St. James Catholic School  
 St. Louis Catholic School  
 St. Luke Catholic School  
 St. Mark Catholic School  
 St. Patrick Catholic School  
 St. Thomas More Cathedral School  
 The Basilica School of St. Mary



**126**

students with intellectual and developmental disabilities served in Porto grantee schools

**1,364**

students with an identified disability served in Porto grantee schools

**7,920**

students enriched by inclusive programs in Porto grantee schools



**3**

**Scholarships** granted to Diocesan educators pursuing Master's degrees and certifications in special education

**5**

**Awards** presented to recognize those serving children and young adults with disabilities in our Diocese

**23**

**Educators** in the Diocese of Arlington benefited from George Mason University Introduction to Special Education course

**131**

**Children** with disabilities attended sacramental preparation programs that receive Porto's financial support

**1,000+**

**People** engaged at our Gala, Christmas party, golf tournament, conference, PortoPartner events, webinars, and trainings

**Impact by the Numbers**

# Porto Highlights 2024



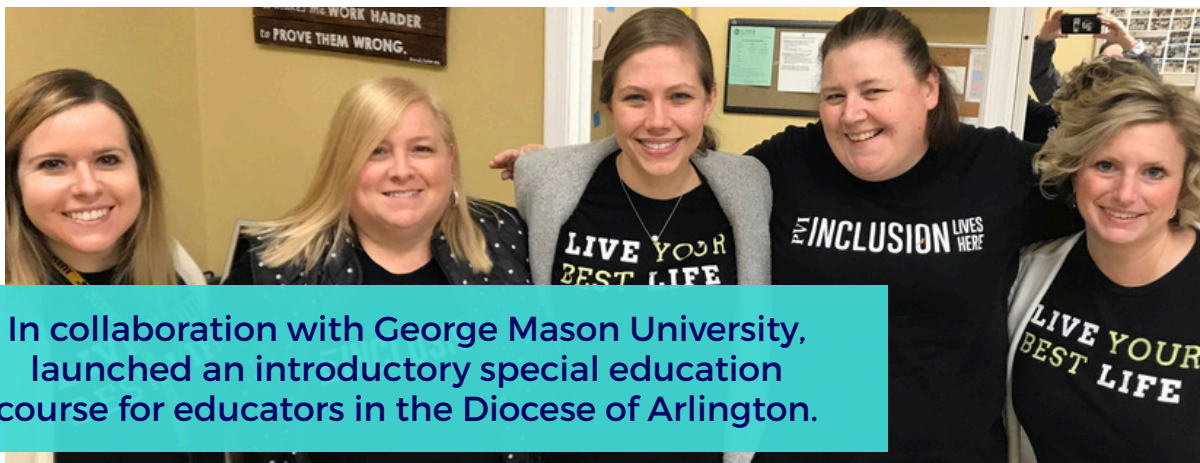
Awarded \$200,000 in grants to 15 Catholic schools and the Office of Catholic Schools to initiate and grow inclusive education programs for students with disabilities in the Diocese of Arlington.



Made a \$6,000 grant to the Office of Religious Education to help 12 SPRED programs in the Diocese to purchase supplies for faith formation instruction for children with disabilities.



Launched a scholarship fund for teachers pursuing master's degrees in special education and awarded three scholarships to teachers in the Diocese of Arlington.

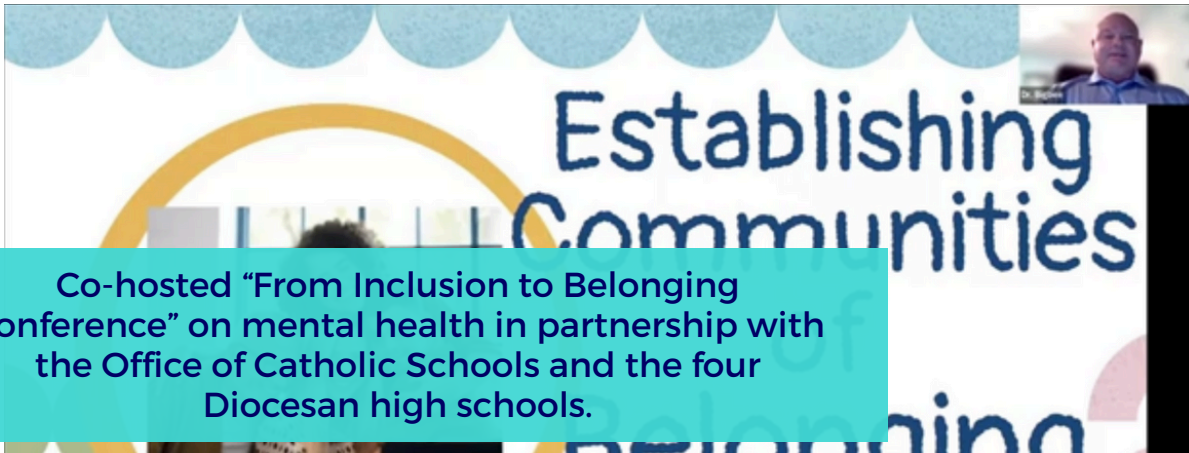


In collaboration with George Mason University, launched an introductory special education course for educators in the Diocese of Arlington.





Facilitated employment and internship opportunities for 5 additional individuals at St. Timothy Church, Ford's Fish Shack, Bishop O'Connell HS, Bishop Ireton HS, and the Little Way Cafe at St. Louis Catholic Church, bringing our total to 25 employees.



Co-hosted "From Inclusion to Belonging Conference" on mental health in partnership with the Office of Catholic Schools and the four Diocesan high schools.



Developed original training including a webinar series on peer mentoring students with intellectual disabilities in Catholic schools and a Universal Design for Learning program for 300+ pre-school and extended day teachers in the Diocese of Arlington.



Partnered with Word on Fire to found a national working group on inclusive Catholic education, bringing together experts across many disciplines to help advance the cause of inclusive education for students with disabilities.





## Record-Breaking of Parishes Participated in our Special Kids / Special Needs Campaign

We are so grateful to all the pastors and parishioners who generously supported our SK/SN campaign making possible to raise a **record-breaking \$183,000**

All Saints Catholic Church  
Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church  
Christ the Redeemer Catholic Church  
Church of the Nativity  
Good Shepherd Catholic Church  
Holy Family Catholic Church  
Holy Spirit Catholic Church  
Holy Trinity Catholic Church  
Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church  
Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church  
Our Lady of Hope Catholic Church  
Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church  
Our Lady of the Blue Ridge Catholic Church  
Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church  
Precious Blood Catholic Church  
Queen of Apostles Catholic Church  
Sacred Heart Catholic Church  
Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church  
St. Agnes Catholic Church  
St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church  
St. Ann Catholic Church  
St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church  
St. Anthony of Padua Mission  
St. Bernadette Catholic Church  
St. Bridget of Ireland Catholic Church  
St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church  
St. Charles Catholic Church  
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church  
St. Elizabeth of Hungary  
St. Isidore the Farmer Catholic Church

St. James Catholic Church  
St. John Neumann Catholic Church  
St. John the Apostle Catholic Church  
St. John the Baptist Catholic Church  
St. John the Beloved Catholic Church  
St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church  
St. Joseph Catholic Church  
St. Jude Catholic Church  
St. Katharine Drexel Catholic Church  
St. Lawrence Catholic Church  
St. Leo the Great Catholic Church  
St. Luke Catholic Church  
St. Mark Catholic Church  
St. Mary of Sorrows Catholic Church  
St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception  
St. Matthew Catholic Church  
St. Patrick Catholic Church  
St. Paul Mission Hague  
St. Philip Catholic Church  
St. Raymond of Penafort Catholic Church  
St. Rita Catholic Church  
St. Stephen Catholic Church  
St. Thomas a Becket Catholic Church  
St. Timothy Catholic Church  
St. Veronica Catholic Church  
St. William of York Catholic Church  
The Basilica of St. Mary  
The Cathedral of St. Thomas More  
University of Mary Washington



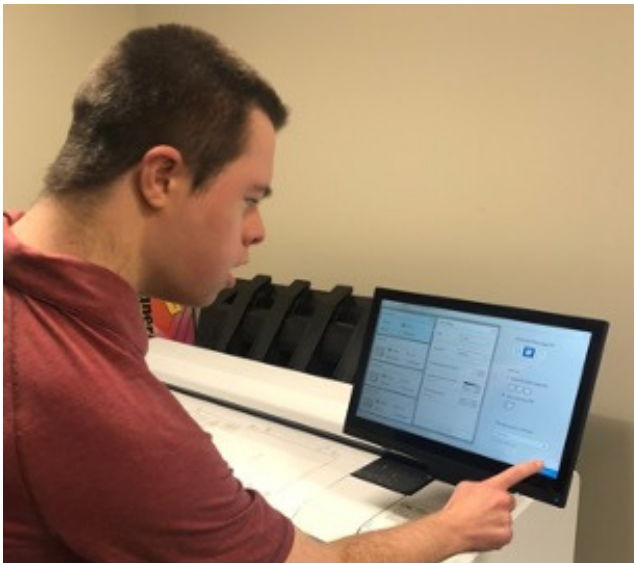
**Teresa M. Talierco, MA, LPC**  
**Individual and Family Psychotherapy**  
McLEAN, VA  
teresatalierco@gmail.com



Our 2024 Partners



# Testimonials



”

“Students and staff have commented that inclusion of all students has been such a blessing for our school. I agree. It’s been a blessing for teachers, parents, students... really for all our school community.”

Educator,  
St. Louis Catholic School

”

"My son not only is growing academically, but he's growing spiritually and emotionally as well. He is being included in a parish community that he has wanted so much to have full participation in. If you would like to see this more prevalent within our parishes, please support Porto Charities."

Parent of a student,  
All Saints Catholic School

”

"He really enjoys his job. He looks forward to going every day because he’s encouraged by his co-workers. They make an effort to find out what is going on in his life. He is part of the school, he feels like he belongs."

Parent of an employee,  
St. Leo the Great School

”

“Peer mentoring is the highlight of my day, the friendships that I have been able to make are so important to me. I definitely want to go into Special Education when I graduate from High School.”

Peer Mentor,  
Bishop O’Connell High School





## Executive Officers

**Leo Alonso**, President & CEO  
**Tony Stafford**, Vice President  
**John Reidt**, Treasurer  
**Bill Mundy**, Secretary & Charitable Gifts Chair  
**Bill Dalgetty**, Governance Chair  
**Jerry Pelano**, Development Chair

## Board Directors

**Maureen Ashby**  
Education Chair  
**Art Bennett**  
SK/SN Campaign Chair  
**Dan Braun**  
**Patrick Cross**  
**Sheila Erhardt**  
**Therese Fimian**  
**Paul Frommelt**

**Christine Fowler**  
Employment Chair  
**Dave Hoppe**  
**Stew McHie**  
Golf Tournament Director  
**Richard Milone**  
**Fr. Rich Miserendino**  
**Robert Mueller**  
**Jay Sciuto**

## Staff

**Carmen Chiappetta**, Outreach Coordinator  
**Kathryn Doherty**, Chief Operating Officer  
**Anita Phares**, Executive Assistant  
**Lupita Williamson**, Communications Chair





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Fairfax, VA 22038  
[www.portocharities.org](http://www.portocharities.org)

## EMBRACING BELONGING ALL YEAR LONG

**OCTOBER 3, 2025**  
**Golf**  
**Tournament**

**DECEMBER 6, 2025**  
**Christmas**  
**Party**

**MARCH 7, 2026**  
**Conference**  
**on Disability**

**APRIL 24, 2026**  
**Awards**  
**Gala**



To learn more about us, sign up for our newsletter, volunteer or make a gift to support our work, please visit [www.portocharities.org](http://www.portocharities.org) or use your camera phone to scan this QR code.



Connect with us on:



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