

October Newsletter

Respect Life & Disability Employment Month



Dear Friends,

October is Respect Life Month. As Catholics, we are called to cherish, defend, and protect those who are most vulnerable, from the beginning of life to its end, and at every point in between. This calling is intrinsically linked to our mission at Porto Charities.

We want to invite you to join us in this calling. **Please make a conscientious decision to embrace people with disabilities in meaningful ways:**

- **Reach out to someone with a disability** and let them know how much you love and treasure them
- **Include people with disabilities** - extend an invitation to do something fun with you or ask them to help you
- **Encourage your Catholic school to serve students with disabilities** and to contact Porto Charities or the Office of Catholic Schools to get started
- **Encourage your parish to start [SPRED programs](#)** and make their youth groups and ministries more welcoming towards parishioners with disabilities
- **Support with your time and treasure** one of the many organizations in our community serving people with disabilities
- **Get involved with Porto Charities!**

October is also National Disability Employment Awareness month. Our PortoWorks initiative, has facilitated the employment of more than 25 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities at schools, parishes, businesses, and the Chancery at the Diocese of Arlington.

Porto Charities is working hard to increase that number, but we need your support.

Encourage your school, parish, and business to hire young adults with disabilities who are eager to find employment and volunteer opportunities. These individuals long to contribute their unique gifts and talents to our communities .

Together we can make a greater impact in the lives of persons with disabilities in the way we treat, respect and value them.

Sincerely,
Porto Charities

Individuals with Disabilities are Enriching Diocesan Workplaces

Mia, a graduate of Chantilly HS and second-year intern at St. Timothy School, is an invaluable preschool assistant, helping supervise students in the classroom, on the playground, and during carpool, snacks, and art projects.

Being artistic, she especially enjoys leading art projects, bringing that creative spirit to the same school where she attended CCD and where her siblings graduated from.



Mia



Kevin

Kevin has been successfully employed at St. Joseph Catholic School for several years and is part of the staff team.

He supports the school as a library assistant. He enjoys reading to the children, as well as helping them find the perfect book.

Kevin makes sure to keep the bookshelves well organized. The children love Kevin and truly enjoy having him around!

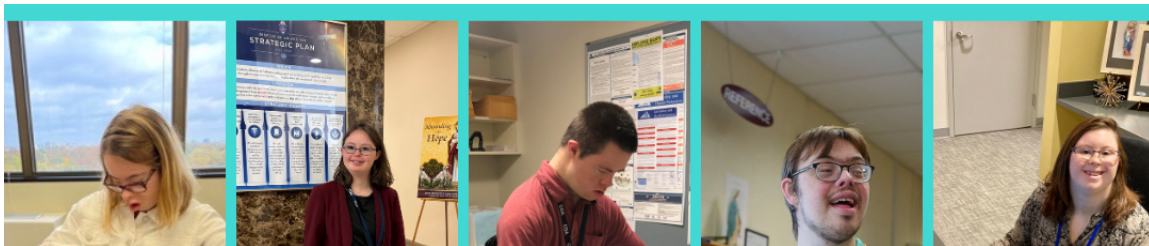
Natalie works as an office assistant, providing support to both the parish and school at Nativity.

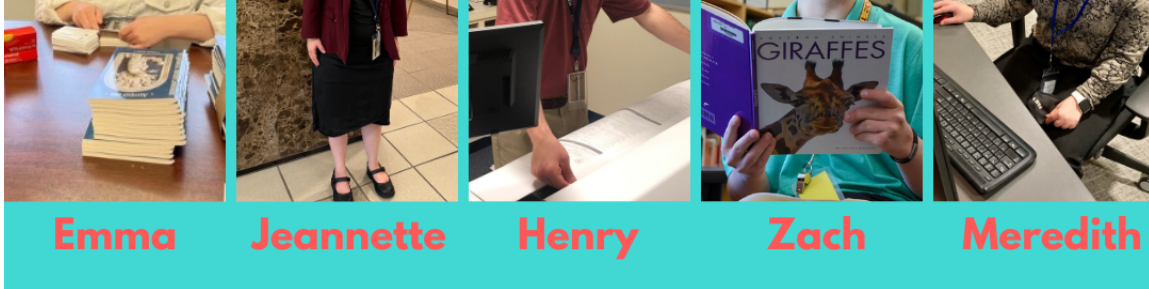
Natalie loves going to work and has been truly embraced by all the staff and the students.

Natalie has been able to hone her skills and take on more responsibilities over time.



Natalie





Meaningful employment—both paid and unpaid—provides critical opportunities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to hone skills and gain essential experience. Because of supporters like you, we see this beautifully illustrated every day right here in the Arlington Diocese!

Learn more about how Emma, Jeannette, Henry, Zach, and Meredith are enriching their workplaces with their unique skills and talents in this inspiring Catholic Herald article.

[Catholic Herald Article](#)

Give Tyler the Chance to Bring his Skills and Enthusiasm to your Business!



JOB SEEKER SPOTLIGHT TYLER

More Info
portoworks@portocharities.org



We are excited to introduce **Tyler**, a highly motivated and friendly job seeker ready to contribute his talents to a business near Warrenton, Sterling, Herndon, and Reston. Tyler graduated from St. Mark Catholic School, Paul VI Catholic High School, and the LIFE program at George Mason University. Tyler can efficiently perform basic computer tasks and assist with common office functions. He is a quick learner who enjoys sports, cars, and technology. Additionally, he has an engaging personality that makes him a true asset to any workplace looking to enhance its team. Tyler has been working as an intern in Capitol Hill for four years.

For any business that has considered hiring an employee with intellectual and developmental disabilities, this is your perfect opportunity. Tyler is working with a dedicated job coach, Amber, who will provide on-site support as he learns the tasks of his new role, ensuring a smooth transition for everyone on your team until he is ready to work independently. To learn more about how Tyler can benefit your workplace and to discuss potential positions, please reach out to Christine Fowler at portoworks@portocharities.org.



My name is Amber and I'm a George Mason MSW student intern working with Porto Charities. My role is to provide employment support for young adults with intellectual/developmental disabilities. We are following the Marc Gold & Associates Customized Employment model to develop customized roles for each job seeker. Customized employment is a person-centered model that curates opportunities based on the unique strengths of each individual. We provide follow up support to ensure every job seeker successfully integrates into their role.

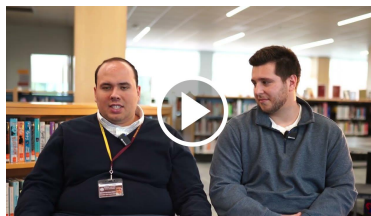
I am conducting discovery with my job seeker, Tyler, in order to learn what contributions he can bring to potential employers. I've been getting to know Tyler by observing him work and volunteer in a variety of settings. He has comprehensive skills and interests that make him a great candidate for a working in a support capacity to a car sales associate. In addition, Tyler has intrapersonal skills that would make him a good leader as a sports coach. Lastly, we are considering a role that capitalizes on his technology skills.

Meet Outstanding Employers!

Porto Charities proudly recognizes employers across the **Catholic Diocese of Arlington** who champion inclusive hiring. Each year at our annual gala, we present the **Bishop Michael Burbidge Award for Outstanding Employer** to a school, parish, or business in the Diocese that employs individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Discover the powerful impact of this commitment. **Hear the inspiring stories directly from these exceptional employers and employees!**

Bishop Ireton HS



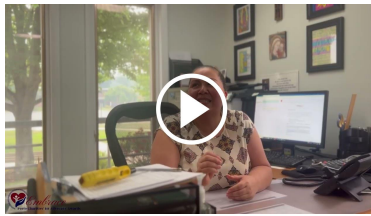
Bishop Ireton High School employs not one, but two individuals with ID/DD: Joey and Gavin. Each has a unique skill set, so they perform different roles.

St. Leo the Great



St. Leo the Great has two employees: Zach and Morgan. Both are graduates of St. Paul VI Catholic High School and they perform a variety of tasks at St. Leo.

Our Lady of Good Counsel



Our Lady of Good Counsel also has two individuals employed: Tommy and Celeste. Tommy supports the office staff, while Celeste supports the classrooms.

You too can be an outstanding employer! Send us an email to portoworks@portocharities.org learn more!

If you are unable to hire someone, please consider supporting our program with your financial gift. Please indicate "Employment Program" or "PortoWorks" in the memo.

Thank you for your generosity!

Donate to Our PortoWorks Program



EMBRACING BELONGING ALL YEAR LONG



NOV 16
BOWLING
SOCIAL

NOV 19
PARENT
COFFEE

DEC 6
CHRISTMAS
PARTY

MARCH 7
DISABILITY
CONFERENCE

APR 24
AWARDS
GALA

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Events