



SHIFTING SANDS



A Spiritual Message The Weather

“How about this winter!” is an exclamation we have all heard and probably used over the past couple of months to voice our pleasure over the mildness of the winter of 2011-12. With little noticeable snow and few sub-freezing days, it has either been a confirmation of global warming or just a lucky break, but in any event a welcome change from snowy seasons of the recent past. We have learned, if we of an age that has endured many winters, that the vagaries of the weather are something we just endure, something we probably give serious thought to only when planning golf outings, a picnic, or attendance at an outdoor sporting event. Despite all our scientific advances, we are still at the mercy of nature’s forces, despite our abilities to insulate ourselves from the cold and cool ourselves in the sweltering heat.

When we look at nature and its forces from the perspective of faith, we call it Providence, God’s loving over-

sight in human affairs. We don’t mean, of course, that God sits on high and runs things like a puppeteer directing the every step of the human dance. And we don’t mean that we are bereft of free will, at the mercy of a capricious power and pre-determined in all our actions. We should think of Providence more as we would look at the oversight of a loving parent, protecting us from harm and, when harm does happen, helping us in our healing and guiding us in drawing the good that might come from the experience.

In this regard, I often think of that beautiful hymn sung at the Easter Vigil service. The “Exultet” speaks of the “happy fault” of Adam, not praising the sin but marveling at the gracious love of a God that used that occasion –and all consequent sinful occasions– to send a redeemer, who would far surpass all expectations in the person and power of Jesus, the Christ.

Because of our faith, we have the power to rise above all the disappointments of life. It’s not always easy, but there is always a way. The way, of course, was laid out in the life and death and resurrection of Jesus, the paradigm for every Christian life. We can “practice resurrection” by developing a deeper faith in God’s providence, by using the valleys of life as times to turn to prayer and reflection. In God’s providence, it has been a mild winter. But it is also God’s providence that in other years provides the cold and the snow, whose moisture provides the nurture of spring and its fruits. In God’s providence we can look beyond all the ups and downs, recognizing the longer and the larger view that takes in eternity itself.

Fr. Edwin Dill, ST

Grand Commander’s Message

“Success comes in cans, not can’ts”.

The Office of Catholic Schools recently sent out a News Flash on Alhambra Porto 104 and Porto Charities to everyone on their e-mail list: principals, teachers, administrators, pastors, priests, school board members and parents of all Catholic school students in the Diocese. This is great publicity for Porto and PCI.

In this issue of *Shifting Sands*, please read the history of the support for special education provided by Porto 104 and its Sir Nobles for our Special Angels throughout the years (see p. 6). Each one of the programs listed came to fruition through the efforts and per-

sistence of our membership. They blazed a path for many to have the experience and option to educate their special needs students in northern Virginia. We need to continue this support to ensure future expansion and success for these efforts. These programs did not just fall from the sky; it took a lot of hard work by many with great vision and heart.

At our Founders’ Day charity awards event for 2010-11, we distributed \$90,000 from church second collections to twenty worthy 501(c)(3) groups supporting our mission (see p. 5). One of the worthy organizations we assist is ArtStream. Please make plans to attend

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one of their Spring performances in March (see p. 8). They are a great theatre company and it is very uplifting when we see our Special Angels performing on stage. Remember we hope to make their March 24th show, Porto Charities day!

On the housing front, please keep an eye out for a housing survey to be mailed to our members shortly. Fill it out and return it immediately; do not procrastinate! Based on the responses, we hope to move forward with a home or apartments by the end of 2012.

The Diocese is moving a little slower than we would like on the employment front, but they are moving forward to create jobs at their offices in Arlington. We are also exploring the possibility of building greenhouses for hydroponic crops which would be grown, harvested, packed, sold at farmers' markets, and delivered to local grocery stores by our Special Angels. Several of us will be visiting a working model in the next week. We will be requesting a loan from Alhambra to create jobs for this endeavor. With the profits from this model operation, we believe we can help pay for expenses of homes for our population, thus reducing costs to manageable levels.

PCI will be working with the GMU LIFE program this coming fall to operate a townhouse for LIFE graduates as a test with support from GMU residential assistants and job coaches. If this model is successful, PCI feels we can then provide services for housing and employment supervision at a reasonable cost for all our members as we set up independent living arrangements and job opportunities.

We have grown our membership by seven more families thanks to the efforts and encouragement of our members. Tell our story and more will join; our future is great!!

Also, please check out our new and improved website — www.portocharities.org— and provide your comments and send information for inclusion to Pat Cross at pcross@crosshome.org.

Lastly, please respond to our Porto Derby invitation (see p. 9). The quicker you can RSVP, the more time I can spend on future endeavors.

GC Leo Alonso

DATES TO REMEMBER

MEETINGS

WHERE:

Our Lady of Good Counsel (OLGC) De Sales room/downstairs classroom (DS), Vienna, VA

WHEN:

Second Thursday of every other month. Next meetings:

- ❖ Thursday, April 12 — Porto 104 Divan, 7-8 PM; PCI, 8-9 PM
- ❖ Thursday, June 14 — Porto 104 Divan, 7-8 PM; PCI, 8-9 PM
- ❖ Thursday, August 9 — Porto 104 Divan, 7-8 PM; PCI, 8-9 PM
- ❖ Thursday, November 8 — Porto 104 Divan, 7-8 PM; PCI, 8-9 PM

EVENTS

- ❖ Saturday, May 12 — Porto Derby Trivia Contest, 6-10 PM
- ❖ Saturday, August 4 — Lake Anna Party, 11 AM to 8 PM (swimming and boat rides)
- ❖ Sunday, September 30 — Bishop's Mass and Reception, 5-7 PM
- ❖ Friday, October 5 — Golf Tournament, 9 AM to 3 PM
- ❖ Saturday, October 20 — Oktoberfest 6-10 PM (bingo)
- ❖ Saturday, December 15 — Christmas Party, 6-10 PM (band)

Welcome!

A very special welcome to the newest members of Porto Charities:

- ❖ Mary and Ralph Daley (Fairfax)
- ❖ Chapman, Charlene and Cameron Dugger (Vienna)
- ❖ Jone, Bruce and Joe Gittinger (Dunn Loring)
- ❖ Ellen, James, Cameron and Jay Graham (McLean)
- ❖ James, Dana and James Sack (Great Falls)
- ❖ Bob, Pat and Heather Savage (Fairfax)
- ❖ David, Emily, Zoey and Lilly Steinau (Vienna)



MEMBER PROFILE

**William “Bill” C. Fuchs
Past Supreme Vizier
His Life and Service to Alhambra
and Others**

Bill, a member of the Order of Alhambra and Porto Caravan 104 since 1975, was born in 1919, in Goliad, Texas. He joined the U. S. Navy in 1936 and was on active duty during World War II, from 1936 until February 1947, at which time he resigned his commission with the rank of Commander and started a career as an engineer in electronics. In 1943, while still on active duty with the Navy, he married Dorothy (Morin) Fuchs of Chicago, Ill (Dorothy passed away in 2003), and during their 60 years of marriage, they had six children, 14 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren.

Bill’s engineering career spanned 14 years with the Radio Technical Commission for Aeronautics (RTCA), where he was its Technical Director and Chief Operating Officer, managing and coordinating government and industry volunteers in developing aviation telecommunications standards for use by the aviation community throughout the world.

Bill’s relationship with Alhambra is long and fruitful. As part of Porto 104, he was elected to and served as Captain of the Body Guard, Scribe of the Exchequer, Grand Scribe, Grand Advocate, Vice Grand Commander, and Grand Commander. He is also the founder of Porto’s monthly newsletter *Shifting Sands*, which began in 1981 and served as its first editor/publisher.

Bill served in various Order of the Alhambra-related positions, including Deputy Regional Director; Regional Director (Virginia); Chairman, International Living Pledge Program (4 years); member of the Board of Directors and Finance Committee of St. Coletta School for Retarded Children serving Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia. Bill was elected Supreme Vizier in 1983 and subsequently served as Chairman of the Alhambra Planning Unit; Co-Chairman Spiritual and Memorial Gifts Committee; Member of Alhambra House Project Committee; Audit Committee;

Ceremonial Committee; Al Sunna Revision Committee; and Data Processing Support Committee.

Throughout his life Bill has also been involved in many other organizations, including the Knights of Columbus, Toastmasters International, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, the Air Traffic Control Association, and the Institute of Navigation. He is also a licensed amateur radio operator, W4PGA.

Bill has traveled extensively to places in the United States, Canada, Mexico, several Caribbean islands, Panama, countries in South America, North Africa, and Europe, China, Japan, and the former Soviet Union.

Bill brought his lifetime experiences to dedicate more than 35 years of service to Porto Caravan and the Order of Alhambra. And now at age 93, he watches the “new guard” take over and move our purposes and goals forward. ■

Grand Advocate Report

As the result of a recent audit of the bylaws of Porto 104, the following changes are proposed and will be voted upon at the May 12, 2012, general meeting and Porto Derby activities. These changes were recommended by the Supreme Advocate, William Cubbedge, to align our local bylaws with the changes to Al Sunna approved at the recent Convention.

1. Strike the word “male” from Article II, Section 2, Qualifications for Membership.

2. Include the following clause: “The most recent edition of the bylaws, rules, policies and procedures of the International Order of Alhambra (referred to generally by the Order as Al Sunna”) are hereby incorporated into these bylaws by reference. Any part of these bylaws which are not in conformity with the most recent edition of Al Sunna are notwithstanding, and any part so not conforming will be interpreted in such a way as to conform with the most recent edition of Al Sunna.”
3. Include the following language: “Any reference in these bylaws to the male

pronoun (i.e. “he”, “his”, “him”, etc.) shall be construed to include persons of both sexes as the context should demand.”

4. Allow two members of Officers to call an unscheduled meeting of the Grand Divan, in addition to the present clause allowing the Grand Commander to do so.
5. Amend Article III and Article VIII to allow the Grand Divan to establish the due date of fees and dues and the appropriate date of attaining a delinquent status.

Ron Gutkowski

Porto Charities, Inc., President's Message

Spring is here and it is just wonderful. Just as wonderful are the initiatives being launched and events to be held this spring.

We are proud to announce that during this season we are springing forward with our windows to the world, our new and improved Porto Charities/ Porto Caravan 104 website currently online and can be previewed at www.portocharities.org. Tons of kudos go out to our website leader and developer, Patrick Cross. As a result of his outstanding achievement, the website contains a wealth of information, including a description of our mission, information about our board, what organizations we support, and highlighted articles from our newsletters and various other activities. Upcoming events will also be added over time and we are also working to allow donations to be submitted online as well. The website was created using open source software which will allow us to easily maintain and update the website so it will always be current, decreasing the cost and technical expertise to manage the site in the future. Please take a look at the website and if you have comments or suggestions for the website you can send them to pcross@crosshome.org. I am sure you will all join me in extending a GREAT BIG THANK YOU to Pat for a job very well done.

In that same vein of recognizing creative and wonderful work, I also publicly extend a GREAT BIG THANK YOU to *Shifting Sands* Editor, Sara Adkins-Blanch, for her marvelous publication of our newsletter. The new format is just super.

Another project we intend to initiate this Spring is a series of seminars to inform and educate parents and our young

adults on issues relating to current and future financial, employment and housing aspects of our lives in the special needs world. As you know, our current jobs and housing committees are well on the way in the successful research needed to bring these issues to fruition. During discussions at committee meetings, other related issues tend to come up that may impact on our lives. Thus, we want to seek out experts in these areas to come and speak to us on the various topics. In that regard, we are endeavoring to find a speaker to lead a seminar on Social Security payment issues and survivor benefits. Future topics we will pursue would be in the areas of Medicare and Medicaid waivers for instance.

The highlight of our spring family events is the world famous Porto Derby to be held on May 12. This fun laden family event is always one of our best parties so remember to make your reservations early. Our very own Coach Pat Hammeke will again be the Master of Ceremonies of the Derby and what a marvelous master he is at generating great fun and perpetual laughter among the frolicking crowd. YIKES, last year some of our young adults revealed some personal secrets about their mothers! In addition to the delicious food and boisterous entertainment there will be ample prizes too. Don't miss it!

Thank you for your continued support of Porto Charities, Inc. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, suggestions, or comments. I would love to hear from you.

I hope you all will enjoy this beautiful spring weather.

Carmen DiPlacido

Porto 104 and Porto Charities Celebrate

Porto 104 and Porto Charities, Inc., (PCI) parties are family celebrations. Every function has a theme and activity geared for its special needs young adults. A Mass is held at most get-togethers in the chapel of Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish in Vienna, Virginia, followed by a themed dinner. Parents enjoy the Oasis.

2011 Christmas Celebration



The evening began with a Mass officiated by Fr. Dill, followed by the Oasis and a wonderful dinner provided by Wildflour Caterers, a group supported by Porto and PCI which employs 30 of our special needs workers.

Dinner was followed by a class for the young adults taught by Vanessa (from Brazil) during which the young adults danced to salsa, rumba, cha-cha and zumba. Dancing and exercise are always a big hit!



This year there was also a weigh-in as Grand Commander Leo Alonso shed 40 lbs. in eight months with pledged donations from members and friends. Pledges were made from 50 cents to \$20 per lb. and this effort raised \$7,800 for the PCI housing fund.

Santa also showed up with bags of chocolate gold coins for most and bags of black charcoal nuggets for a select few.

The evening concluded with dancing to D.J. Sultana Betty and the music from the Porto boom box. ■



Porto 104 and Porto Charities Celebrate (cont.)

Founder's Day and Annual Grant Awards

On February 4th at Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish Hall, Porto 104 and Porto Charities, Inc. (PCI), held their Founder's Day and annual awards dinner. Porto 104 and PCI are blessed to have a strong supporter in Arlington's Catholic Diocese Bishop Paul S. Loverde who allows annual Special Kids/Special Needs second collections. Parishioners contribute generously with open hearts. In 2011, this collection netted a record \$87,282. PCI rounded the amount of the grant awards to \$90,000 from dues funds.

This festive evening began with the Oasis and a lively Fiesta provided by a Mariachi player. The catered Mexican dinner had a record 134 individuals in attendance, including Sir Nobles, Sultanas, PCI members and award recipients. The food was prepared by 30 special young adults employed by Wild-flour Caterers, an organization PCI supports.

The evening progressed with accolades as the 20 organizations, schools, 501(c) (3) groups, group homes, and employers all provided reports of their accomplishments in 2011 and plans to continue helping God's Special Angels succeed in the

community. We learned about iPads for communication purposes and classroom use, future housing endeavors, employment and employment support, advocacy and new laws affecting our special needs population. These 20 groups receiving awards have spearheaded most of these efforts, along with involvement from our members as Special Olympics coaches, on boards, and in many other volunteer areas where Porto 104 and PCI families lend their support in one way or another. ■

Award recipients, from top to bottom and left to right (flanked by Carmen DiPlacido, PCI President and/or Leo Alonso, Grand Commander): St. Louis Parish Religious Education Program (Melissa Scalph and JoAnne McCracken); Villa Maria (Elsie McCoy); Down Syndrome Association of NOVA (Jennifer Greiner); Autism Society of NOVA (Ray Nelson); ARC of NOVA (Lynn Ruiz); Davis Center (Brandon Woolfe); Art-Stream (Ramee Gentry and Patti Woolsey); Special Olympics Area 26 (Kirsten Stone, Heather Stone, Megan Jeffries); St. Mark's Evangelist Program (Mary Ellen Garcia, Elizabeth Eisenberg, Regina Hastings, Tommy Ngo, Roberta Etzel); Best Buddies (Sarah Pierson); John Paul the Great Catholic HS Options Program (Megan Battle, Sister Mary Jordan Hoover); Paul VI Catholic HS Options Program (Mary Daley); GMU LIFE Program (Dr. Heidi Graff).



Alhambra's Support of Education for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities

Porto 104 has been helping individuals with intellectual disabilities in the Arlington Diocese receive a Catholic education since 1961. Porto 104 members founded St. Coletta's School in Alexandria, Virginia, in 1961. They raised and provided over \$2.6 million in funding for the school until 2001 when it ceased to be Catholic and moved to Washington, D.C. At the time of its founding, St. Coletta's was the only option for education of those with special needs as public schools did not offer special education until the mid-70's.

In 1998, Porto 104 members were again at the forefront in founding the Paul VI Catholic High School Options program. This Options program was only the second such endeavor in the nation at the time in a Catholic high school environment. Porto has provided over \$400,000 to Paul VI Options since that time. This model program now has been established in over 30 Catholic schools in the United States. It has received awards in education; it has graduated over 60 students with intellectual disabilities; it has exposed over 12,000 regular education students to those with intellectual disabilities by becoming peer mentors. Over 1,000 students have participated as mentors and several have gone into the special education field as teachers and directors of similar programs.

In 2002, the founding families of the Paul VI Options program also became the founders of the George Mason University Learning Into Future Environments (GMU LIFE) program. This was the first program in the country providing a post-secondary education to young adults with intellectual disabilities. This model now has been instituted in over 40 college campuses nationwide. Porto has supported this program with over \$300,000 over the past nine years, providing funds for scholarships and the necessary tools for success. GMU undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral students majoring in special education

and psychology work as the residential assistants and teachers providing them with hands-on experience prior to going out into other schools as teachers.

LIFE students can live on campus or nearby townhouses supported by residential assistants. This allows them to acquire independent living skills, learn transportation routes, and shop on their own. Once they have graduated from the original 4-year program, they have the opportunity to take part in another groundbreaking internship program instituted three years ago. They are provided employment on campus or in local businesses such as Audi, Best Buy, T.J. Maxx and Pitney Bowes. Most recently, they have expanded this internship program to Congressional and other support offices on Capitol Hill. These internships have led to some paid positions allowing these young adults to live "A Life Like Yours."

John Paul the Great opened four years ago with a second Options program in our Diocese and this Spring will be graduating its first two students. The program's director was a former Paul VI Options peer mentor as well as a residential assistant and instructor in the Mason LIFE program. She received a special education degree from GMU. The John Paul the Great program has been awarded over \$28,000 over the past four years and we continue to expand our funding.

The Evangelist Program at St. Mark's Catholic School in the Arlington Diocese was also founded by Porto members. They have provided over \$30,000 for students to be educated in a Catholic environment at the elementary/middle school level. This June, they will graduate their first student who will be attending the Paul VI Options program, a natural stepping stone continuing their Catholic education.

Porto has also provided support for the Arlington Diocese "Keyboard for Kids" program targeting those with developmental disabilities. Since its inception in 2002, we have made available over \$120,000. This donation to the Office of Catholic Schools allows them to

provide smart boards, computers, learning programs, reading software, and other adaptive electronic equipment to the 48 Diocesan schools. In the 2011-12 school year, St. Ann's School accepted a student with Down syndrome and the office was able to provide materials to better serve this individual's needs to succeed in an inclusive, faith-based environment.

Throughout the years as we support these programs, we find that fully integrating students with intellectual disabilities into the total life of a Catholic, faith-based school community benefits everyone. The special needs students develop interpersonal relationships which increase their self esteem and ensure their future success. The regular education students learn acceptance of those who are different, recognize their skills, and value them as productive members of society. These peer mentors will be going out into the workforce and will be the future employers of those with special needs. It's a win-win situation and one we are so proud to support. ■

Please Pray for...

Only good news to report:

- Tommy Joe is all better and is out and about!

Call PGC Rick Vranesh (703-241-9526) if you know of anyone in need of our prayers, comfort or support.





ORGANIZATIONS PORTO SUPPORTS

GEORGE MASON LEARNING INTO FUTURE ENVIRONMENTS (LIFE) PROGRAM

The Mason Learning into Future Environments (LIFE) Program (<http://masonlife.gmu.edu/>) serves to provide young adults, whose disabilities have traditionally excluded them from higher education, with an inclusive university experience that will further their academic skills, prepare them for employment, and encourage independent living in their communities. Placed within the College of Education and Human Development at George Mason University, the Mason LIFE Program is an integral component of the Helen A. Kellar Institute for Human Disabilities. The Program began as a pilot in 2002 with three students and has systematically grown, adding residential and employment components and now serves 42 students. A 3-year vocational internship program has also been added for students who have completed the Academic component. Currently, Mason LIFE students come from eight states and two countries. Students conclude the program with a Certificate of Completion. Since May 2011, the program has 26 alumni.

The Mason LIFE program has four main components: Academic, Exploration, Employment, and Residential. The Academic component is comprised

of classes specifically designed to increase skill development in reading, writing, and mathematics. If a Mason LIFE student gains a year or more in these dominant areas then the student increases his/her potential job opportunities. In the Exploration component, Mason LIFE students discover new concepts and socialize with other Mason students by their participation in catalog (special topics) classes. Their course work is monitored and modified to maximize each student's learning and success. The Employment component is a combination of on-campus and community-based work sites. All students have the ability to expand their work experiences and proficiency through various placements. The Residential component continues to build upon the foundation fostered in the Independent Living and Community Access classes. Approximately two-thirds of the Mason LIFE students live in either on or off campus Residential housing.

The Mason LIFE program is one of the "Innovations" of George Mason University and was one of the first public universities to provide postsecondary programs for students with intellectual and developmental dis-

abilities. Mason has been recognized by numerous organizations as a leader in this type of programming. As such, first State of the Art Conference on Postsecondary Education and Students with Intellectual Disabilities was held at the Mason Inn in 2009 with 60 invited guests. The conference grew at its next two gatherings, in 2010 and 2011, with 225 and 301 participants respectively. This conference continues to be a source of dissemination of information in this field and will be held again November 29-30, 2012. Please visit our website (www.sscsid.org) for more details, and to view the proposal submission process. Families and students are encouraged to attend.

The Mason LIFE Program is grateful to Porto Charities for their generous support. With their assistance, Mason LIFE students and their families have received scholarship funds to attend the program. ■

To contact the program, please call (703) 993-3905 or contact Dr. Heidi Graff, the Mason LIFE Director, at hgraff@gmu.edu.

Upcoming Events

REMINDER!
March 24th is
Porto Charities
members day!

ArtStream OnStage

In partnership with the Educational Theatre Company Presents:

The 2012 Arlington Inclusive Theatre Companies in:



*We're time-traveling time-travelers
Having the time of our lives!*

Directed by John Newman
Music and Lyrics by Daniel Villar,
George Tilson and John Newman



**To boldly go where no inclusive
theatre company has gone before.**

Directed by Patricia Woolsey
With Music and Lyrics by Daniel Villar

An all-original sci-fi double feature!



Gunston Theatre One
2700 South Lang St.
Arlington, VA 22206

March 15 - 17 and March 22 - 24
Thursdays and Fridays at 8:00 pm, Saturdays at 3:00 pm

Tickets are \$10 for general admission
\$5 for ArtStream Actors and Students

Tickets available at the door or online at
www.art-stream.org

We accept Cash, Check or Credit Card (Visa/MC/Disc)

This program is supported in part by the Arlington County Cultural Affairs Division and the Arlington Commission for the Arts.

301-565-4567 / www.art-stream.org

Upcoming Events (cont.)



PORTO 104/PORTO CHARITIES, INC.
**2012 PORTO DERBY
 HONORING MOTHERS**

SATURDAY, MAY 12, 2012

Our Lady of Good Counsel DeSales Room (next to chapel)
 8601 Wolftrap Road, Vienna, Virginia

- 6:00 pm Mass in the LGC Chapel
- 7:00 pm Oasis (Happy Hour/Open Bar, included in price)
- 7:30 pm Dinner

- The World Famous Porto Derby!
- 8:30 pm Race 1: How well do our female young adults know their MOMS?
 - Race 2: The Movie and Broadway Musical challenge!
 - Race 3: How well do our male young adults know their MOMS?
 - Race 4: The Grand Commander trivia challenge!



MENU

by Wildflour Bakery:
 BBQ Ribs, Grilled chicken, Pulled pork
 Beans and Corn on the cob
 Cake

ADULTS \$20 ~~~ YOUNG ADULTS \$15

RSVP by May 8th to Betty or Leo Alonso
 at bettyleo@aol.com or (703) 626-2051



Order of the Alhambra
Founded February 29, 1904
Application for Membership

Last Name **First Name**

Home address City State..... Zip

Home Telephone Cell Phone Business phone

E-mail address

Married? Yes No If yes, wife's name

Birth date What Parish do you attend?

To what Catholic organizations do you belong?

How did you learn about the Order of Alhambra?

I HEREBY AGREE, if admitted to membership in the ORDER OF ALHAMBRA, to obey the constitution, bylaws, and other rules enacted, or the Supreme Divan, the Council of Viziers, the Executive Committee or the Grand Divan of my Caravan may hereafter enact.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I am in good standing in the Catholic Church and that the above answers are true to the best of my knowledge.

Applicant's Signature Date

Signed in presence of Size of FEZ
 Proposer

Forward this application with your check for \$93.00 Individual or \$143.00 Family membership payable to Porto Caravan No. 104. pay-

Mail application and payment to:

Porto Caravan No. 104, Order of the Alhambra, Post Office Box 7266, Arlington, VA 22207
 Email: bettyleo@aol.com | Telephone: 703.626.2051

CARAVAN INSTRUCTIONS

COMPLETE FOR HEADQUARTERS
OFFICE RECORDS

Caravan Name Number

Applicant's name

Forward this application with the Caravan's check for \$10 to the Headquarters Office within ten (10) days after the candidate's initiation.

Upon receipt, the Executive Director will assign the member's official number in the Order and forward it to the Scribe of the Exchequer for the Caravan's permanent records.

Novice ceremony Qualifying

Ceremonial

Date

Initiated by

At

Certified by

Scribe of the Exchequer



**Porto Charities, Inc.
Application for Membership**

Last Name **First Name**

Residence address City State..... Zip

E-mail address Home Telephone Cell Phone

Employment/profession

Business address City State..... Zip

Business phone

Type of Membership: Single Family

Members of Applicant's Immediate Family

Full name	Relationship	Age	Address and email (if different)	Special Needs?
.....
.....
.....

I/we hereby request admission to membership of Porto Charities Inc. I/We understand that I/We must be sponsored for membership by a current member in good standing of Porto Charities Inc. If admitted to membership in the Porto Charities Inc., I/we hereby agree to obey all of the bylaws of Porto Charities Inc. and any other rules or regulations enacted and implemented by the Board of Directors of Porto Charities Inc.

Applicant's Signature Date

Applicant's Signature Date

Name of Sponsoring Porto Charities Inc. member

Signature of Sponsor..... Date

Forward this application with your check for \$93.00 Individual or \$143.00 Family membership payable to Porto Charities Inc.

The Board of Directors of Porto Charities Inc. reserves the right to:

- ❖ Disapprove an application for membership
- ❖ Assess annual dues for membership.
- ❖ Cancel a membership.
- ❖ Conduct a criminal history background check for any applicant for membership.

Mail application and payment to:

Carmen DiPlacido, President, Porto Charities, Inc., Post Office Box 7266, Arlington,VA 22207

Treasurer's Administrative Action

COMPLETE FOR PORTO CHARITIES, INC. RECORDS

Date Approved..... Membership number.....

Certified by:..... Treasurer of the Board of Directors.....

GRAND DIVAN 2011-2012

Porto Caravan no. 104

REV. EDWIN DILL, S.T.
Chaplain

LEO ALONSO
Grand Commander

BILL MUNDY
Vice Grand Commander

CHRIS WNUK
Grand Scribe

PAT CROSS
Scribe of the Exchequer

RICK VRANESH
Grand Chamberlain and
Past Grand Commander

BILL HINGSTON
Master of the Oasis

TOM BRITTON
Master of the Wardrobe

TOM RYAN
Captain of the Bodyguard

WILLIAM HINGSTON III
Sentinel of the Tower

PAUL TIERNEY
Sentinel of the Desert

RONALD GUTKOWSKI
Grand Advocate

Porto Charities, Inc.

CARMEN DIPLACIDO
President

BILL MUNDY
Vice President

CHARLIE SULLIVAN
Treasurer

PAT HAMMEKE
Secretary

LEO ALONSO (Grand Com-
mander)

PAT CROSS
MICHAEL EISENBERG

Directors

SARA ADKINS-BLANCH
Shifting Sands Editor

The International Order of Alhambra and Porto Caravan 104

The International Order of Alhambra is a fraternal organization of Catholic men dedicated to assisting persons with intellectual disabilities. The Order's mission is to:

- ❖ Provide assistance, education and residences for persons developmentally disabled;
- ❖ Identify, mark, preserve, and commemorate Catholic historical places, events and persons of international or regional importance;
- ❖ Promote fraternalism and sociability among its members and their families.

Porto Caravan No. 104 was chartered in 1956 and is an active Caravan in the International Order of Alhambra with a membership of about 100. Porto Caravan No. 104 is located in the Commonwealth of Virginia environs of the Nation's Capital. Any male practicing Catholic who is 18 years of age or older is eligible to apply for membership.

Contact Information:

Porto Caravan #104 | Order of Alhambra

Post Office Box 7266 | Arlington, VA 22207

Telephone: 703.626.2051 | Email: bettyleo@aol.com

Porto Charities Inc.

Porto Charities, Inc. is an I.R.C. 501(c) (3) charitable organization dedicated to actively assisting people with developmental or intellectual disabilities; their community and their environment. Our mission is to:

- ❖ Raise and provide funds, resources, assistance, education, residences and overall improved quality of life for people with developmental or intellectual disabilities; and
- ❖ Promote education, awareness, friendship and social forums among members, their families and the community.

Our vision is to:

- ❖ Focus our efforts on providing assistance and resources to people with developmental or intellectual disabilities and their environment through our charitable programs and projects while also emphasizing friendship, mutual support and social events for its members.

Contact Information:

Carmen A. DiPlacido, President | Porto Charities, Inc.

Post Office Box 7266 | Arlington, VA 22207

Telephone: 703.746.0101 | Email: cd.cadco@att.net

**If you would like to submit a story, article, or
news piece to *Shifting Sands*, please email
sadkinsblanch@portocharities.org.**