



# SHIFTING SANDS



## A Spiritual Message

### Dog Days and Dumb Question

The “Dog Days of Summer” are upon us — or soon will be; the ancient Romans considered them to be from the end of July to the end of August. It doesn’t seem right to blame a dog for the sweltering weather we have been having, but Sirius, the “Dog Star,” is bright in the heavens at that time of the year and was considered to be the cause of all the heat. (The few canines I have seen out and about recently — with dangling tongue and plenty of panting — looked like they were suffering more than I was.)

If you were without power after the storm that went through the area a while back, the lack of air conditioning added to your misery. My residence was caught up in that situation for about forty hours, most of the time of which I was resting easy in my weekend assignment at an auxiliary-powered navy installation. It was the folks who were without power for days who elicited the most sympathy: sanitary conveniences gone, lost food in their freezers and refrigerators, forced to seek refuge in the malls and other “cooling places” design-

ated for public relief from the near or over 100-degree temperatures.

In a reverse sort of way and in retrospect, it all reminded me of how good we really have it, especially when we stop and reflect on the real and enduring miseries that afflict so many millions of people around the globe: the poverty and famine of drought-destroyed places in Africa, the threat-of-war violence knocking down doors at any time in some spots in the Middle East, the daily drudgery of a large percentage of the world’s population that ekes out a hand-to-mouth living throughout a lifetime. The fact that the Fourth of July came soon after, or for some, in the midst of the power-less heat wave highlighted the blessings we enjoy. Added to the material comforts are the freedoms we can take for granted: free to speak as we wish, free to worship as faith calls us, and free to vote on who will lead us in government — even as we complain about the tedium and seeming futility of prolonged political campaigns.

We are, in short, mightily blessed. And those blessings and others might be worthwhile considerations — and

meditations — as we continue through these Dog Days, cringing and maybe even gritting our teeth when well-meaning people, suffering along with us, ask “Is it hot enough for you?”

*Fr. Edwin Dill, ST*

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## Porto’s Golf Tournament is Back!

The Fifth Annual Porto Charities Golf Tournament will be held on **Friday, October 12, 2012**, at the Regency at Dominion Valley Golf Course in Haymarket, VA. The Arnold Palmer-designed executive golf course features 18 holes of challenging golf with scenic vistas.

This is an exciting and fun event for everyone and the funds it raises are set aside for Porto’s housing efforts. For this reason, all Porto members are strongly encouraged to get involved in the event by playing in the tournament and by identifying sponsors. Sponsorships start at \$300 and Porto/PCI members and/or their families may sponsor a hole for a donation of only \$100. Additionally, we are looking for donated new items for the raffle. Use the write-ups about Porto and PCI on p. 11 of

this newsletter as base information for soliciting sponsors, gifts, raffle items, gift certificates, auction items, etc.

The tournament will again feature the Captain’s Choice format, which ensures that both experienced golfers and new golfers enjoy themselves equally. The tournament launches with a shotgun start at 9:00 am. We will again have a closest-to-the-pin-hole, in addition to a prize for longest drive for men and women. After lunch, there will be a wonderful raffle as well as a live auction with exciting items for both.

The entry fee is only \$ 100.00 per person and includes golf with a cart and a delicious lunch after the tournament. Please see the flyer and registration form on pp. 7 and 8 for more information about the tournament. Please direct any questions to Bill Mundy at BillM10049@aol.com or 703 978-7544.

**Grand Commander’s Message**

*“The best way to predict the future is to create it.”*  
Peter Drucker

Porto 104 and Porto Charities have taken their cue from this quote over the past several years:

- ★ Exposure was needed for our fundraising efforts. With Bishop Loverde’s endorsement at the Arlington Diocese, we created the Disabilities Awareness Mass and designated October as Disabilities Awareness month.
- ★ Our members created Paul VI Options, John Paul the Great Options and the St. Mark’s Evangelist program in order for our Special Angels to be educated in an inclusive, faith-based environment.
- ★ Our members helped create and support the GMU LIFE program, which opens doors to employment and provides independent living skills necessary for housing success in the future.
- ★ Our members have created an annual golf outing. Every year, revenues have increased and have been set aside for our housing efforts. We need all of our members to bring in sponsors. This year, our goal is to raise \$50,000. We can reach it if everyone is on board.

- ★ We are currently trying to predict the future in the area of housing. We are identifying members’ needs through our housing survey and so far we have received responses from 142 families. The task is now to create the solutions so independent living becomes a reality for those we support.
- ★ In researching the housing models throughout the country, we have come to the conclusion that for housing to be successful the residents must have JOBS! At all the successful programs, a Jobs Coordinator is the most important person to have on board. We have identified this person with the support of the GMU LIFE program and are moving ahead. I have had meetings with Fairfax County and E-Tron in regards to the possibility of an alliance for a separate jobs division as part of a “Loving Hearts” Hydroponic Farms endeavor, which will create multiple job opportunities for those we support.

Our newest members are contributing greatly to these new visions. There is no doubt in my mind our membership will grow as we bring all these efforts to fruition.

**PORTO 104 AND PORTO CHARITIES MEMBERS WILL BE KNOWN AS THOSE WHO PREDICTED OUR FUTURE NEEDS AND, MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL, TOOK THE NECESSARY ACTION TO CREATE SOLUTIONS.**

*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, 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, 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 12 — Golf Tournament, 9 AM to 3 PM
- ❖ Saturday, October 27 — Oktoberfest 6-10 PM (bingo)
- ❖ Saturday, December 15 — Christmas Party, 6-10 PM (band)

*In order to maximize the number of social opportunities available to our young and not-so-young members with intellectual disabilities, Porto Charities would like to include events in the community that could be of interest to our group in this newsletter. Please forward the information to the editor of the newsletter at [adkins\\_blanck@verizon.net](mailto:adkins_blanck@verizon.net) or to Leo Alonso at [bettyleo@aol.com](mailto:bettyleo@aol.com).*

**Please Pray for...**

Bernice Perriello, wife of SN Anjelo Perriello, died on Thursday, June 14. She was the mother of David, Marcus, and Angela and grandmother of Marcus and Elizabeth.

Angelo, your wife is in our prayers and she will be missed by all of us. Your fellowship and service to Porto is in our minds and hearts.



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

## Porto Charities, Inc., President's Message

I hope you all are well and despite the wicked storm we had last week and the stifling heat. I also hope you are enjoying the summer.

Without wishing away the summer, I am excited to look ahead to autumn. Porto Charities and Port 104 have several events and activities planned for the fall that are laden with fun and gratification.

The beginning of the annual Disabilities Awareness Month will again be ignited by our beloved and very supportive Bishop, Most Reverend Paul S. Loverde at his Mass to be held the Cathedral of St Thomas More on Sunday September 30th at 5:00 p.m. This spiritual event is always uplifting. A reception will follow the Mass. Mark your calendars for this joyous event.

As the name implies, Disabilities Awareness Month is our concentrated effort to intensely educate the public about our mission, goals, and objectives to assist people with developmental or intellectual disabilities; their community and their environment.

Also occurring this fall is our annual fund raiser (and fun raiser!), the Porto Charities Golf Tournament to be held on Friday, October 12 at the Regency at Dominion Valley Golf Club Haymarket, Virginia. Please see the flyer about the golf outing in this edition of *Shifting Sands* and also pay close attention to our plea for finding sponsors. In order to make this fundraiser a success, it is vital to solicit sponsors. We certainly need your help in this drive for funds so please take the time to find them.

If it is feasible, ask you employer or colleagues, your supermarket, the big box stores or anyone you believe may be charitable for our worthy cause. By the way, if you are not a golfer, come for the fun of it and just have lunch. There is also a super raffle of many fine prizes.

Capping off our autumn events will be Oktoberfest on Saturday evening, October 27 at Our Lady of Good Counsel, another delicious and fun-filled evening.

Thank you all who completed the Porto Charities Housing Committee's Survey. Over 140 participants submitted their surveys and the results are being analyzed and will be published soon — stay tuned! The Committee has done a splendid job.

I am in indeed pleased to give you an update on the Special Kids/Special Needs Collections from local churches in the Arlington Diocese. So far this year 28 parishes have collected \$13,793.00. We are off to a great start with six more months to go. PCI Treasurer Charlie Sullivan sent out a reminder letter on June 18th.

We hope to see you all at Vivian Alonso's Birthday Party at Lake Anna Saturday, August 4th. I can assure you from experience, Mom Betty and GC Leo put on a WONDERFUL PARTY. You can swim, take a boat ride, just relax and above all, eat to your heart's delight!

As always, thank you for your magnificent support of Porto Charities!

*Carmen DiPlacido*

## PORTO 104 MEMBERSHIP DUES

At the last Convention, the date for payment of dues was changed from December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year to September 30<sup>th</sup>. This was done to correspond with Alhambra's fiscal year. Therefore, you will be receiving a bill shortly. Please keep an eye on your mailbox and return it to us at your earliest convenience.

## Porto Derby Honors Moms

On Saturday, May 12, 2012 over 90 members of Porto Charities and Porto 104 and their guests honored Mothers by attending our annual Porto Derby, held at the DeSales Room of Our Lady of Good Counsel Church. The evening began with the Oasis followed by a great BBQ meal, catered by Wildflour Catering, where many of our own self-advocates are employed.

Porto Derby MC, Pat Hammeke, made sure that during the Oasis, Moms present at the event answered some poignant questions about their likes and interests. These were questions that contestants (i.e., race horses) would have to answer after dinner was over. Groups of contestants/horses, first daughters and then sons, were selected from those pre-

sent and participants in the event placed bets (Monopoly \$) for the horse of their choice to be the winner of each race. Each horse was asked questions and the first to answer three correctly won the race.

All the attendees were astounded by the knowledge demonstrated by our self-advocates about their moms! Sir Noble Zack won the "Best Answer of the Night" award for his answer of "White Zinfandel" in response to "What is your Mom's favorite drink?" And, as in many past Derbys, Sultana Casey Hammeke again destroyed all challengers in the "Movie and Broadway Musical Challenge." In the open races, President Carmen upset Grand Commander Leo in the "Grand Commander Trivia Challenge."

The next page contains a great collection of photos taken at the event by Maria Eisenberg, Porto's official photographer.

Bottles of Camel's Milk and gift certificates to Five Guys and Coastal Flats were among the race prizes. People betting on horses in each race also received raffle tickets for prizes.

We hope to have next year's Porto Derby on the first Saturday of May, which is the same day when some other Derby takes place. I believe that one is held in Kentucky. This time, we will honor/pick on fathers. So mark your calendars and get ready for another night of fun and good food! ■



ALHAMBRA HOUSES  
PORTO 104  
SPECIAL KIDS  
SPECIAL NEEDS



Sir Noble Tom Gavin and Grand Commander Leo



PCI Member Mike Eisenber and MC Pat Hammeke



Sir Noble Tom Ryan



Marla Mundy (l), Ruth Hingston (m), Will Hingston (r)



Brendan Hammeke



The Pizzanos (part of the family)



(l-r) Elizabeth Eisenberg, Tasha Adkins-Blanch and Emily Dalgetty



PCI Member Mike Eisenberg



(l-r) Donna Patchett, Casey Hammeke, Meagan Mundy and Christie DiPlacido



(l - r) PCI new member Bruce Gittinger, Sir Noble Bill Mundy, Grand Commander Leo and President Carmen



Sir Noble Zac



## ORGANIZATIONS PORTO SUPPORTS

### KEYBOARD FOR KIDS PROGRAM

The *Keyboards for Kids* program began in 2002 with a donation from Porto Caravan 104. Twenty Alpha Smarts were originally purchased to loan to students within the Diocese of Arlington Catholic schools who had difficulty with writing. These two-pound word processors made it easier for students with writing disabilities or physical disabilities to keep up with note taking or writing assignments. Since 2002 the Office of Catholic Schools has purchased over 100 units (now upgraded to Neo Smarts, see image above) to loan to students. Comments such as “this takes the stress out of writing” or “the student produces work of a higher quality using the Neo Smart” are received yearly from students and teachers when asked about the program.

The program has expanded to include other types of assistive technology as well. The Kurzweil reading software has been provided to schools where students have reading disabilities. Kurzweil is text to speech software that reads scanned material to students highlighting the words as it goes. Using this software has allowed the student with reading issues to gain some independence in the classroom as they no longer need to wait for another person to read the material to them.

As Catholic schools enroll students with intellectual disabilities, the individual needs of the students are looked at to determine if assistive technology or instructional materials are

needed. Assessment materials have been provided to Pope John Paul the Great High School and Paul VI High School. Instructional materials have been provided to St. Ann School as well as St. Mark School.

As our diocesan Catholic schools become more inclusive, professional development is needed to keep the teachers abreast of instructional issues. One way of assisting in this professional development is by providing resources in the professional libraries at each school. With the financial assistance from Porto Charities, teachers now have resources that they can access at their schools to provide a starting point to gain answers to some of their questions.

The generous support from Porto Charities has made it possible for the *Keyboards for Kids* program to grow into a program that can look at the individual needs of students and provide the assistance students need to be as independent as possible in the classroom. The financial support has also helped to meet the needs of the classroom teachers. The Office of Catholic Schools is grateful for the support provided by Porto Charities.

For more information, please contact Diane Elliott, Special Services Coordinator, Arlington Diocese Catholic Schools, at 703-841-3818. ■

### Former Porto Chaplain Retires



Former Porto Chaplain Canon Philip Majka retired from active priesthood

after 47 years on Sunday, June 24th.

There was never a time when Fr. Majka did not think of becoming a priest. He recalled, “I thought that before my first communion, if I liked the taste of the host, I’d become a priest. I liked it and so, “Taste and see the good-

ness of the Lord.” He laughs and you cannot help but laugh with him and agree that “God put the thought in my mind and He determines what we all should be.”

His grandmother supported his vocation and gave him money for his first year at high school seminary. Upon telling her his desire to become a priest, she presented Fr. Majka with a cross, which for the past 61 years has hung above his bed. After attending high school in Bloomfield, CT, Fr. Majka opted for a colder climate, attending junior college at Queen of Apostles in Madison, WI. He

earned his bachelor's from Saint Mary's College in Orchard Lake, MI in 1961.

Fr. Majka was ordained in 1965 and spent his entire pastoral career in diocesan work—first as an associate pastor then as pastor of the newly established parish of St. Elizabeth Seaton in Lake Ridge, VA. In 1984, he became pastor of St. John the Evangelist in Warrenton, founding the school in 1987. He remained there until 1996 when he was transferred to St. Matthew in Spotsylvania. In 1999, he was transferred to Fredericksburg and finally, to St. James Church in Falls Church. ■

**DISABILITIES AND SOCIAL SECURITY:  
YOU DON'T KNOW  
WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW**

Porto Charities Inc. is pleased to invite you to a most informative presentation and discussion with

**David Melton**

Community Affairs Specialist  
Social Security Administration

Tuesday, August 28, 2012

2:00 to 5:00

Light refreshments provided

*Our Lady of Good Counsel – De Sales Hall  
(Please enter from the Niblick St. entrance  
off Route 123, Vienna, VA)*

This is your opportunity to best prepare to maximize benefits for your family member with disabilities. If any of you have any questions that you would like to ask Mr. Melton, please send them to Carmen DiPlacido in advance at [cd.cadco@att.net](mailto:cd.cadco@att.net). He will make sure they get answered.

**We strongly urge the attendance  
of at least one parent/guardian.**





**Fifth Annual Porto Charities Inc.,  
Golf Outing**

**Regency at Dominion Valley  
Golf Club**

**Haymarket, Virginia**

**Friday, October 12, 2012**

- ~~ 18 holes on an Arnold Palmer executive course ~~
- ~~ 9:00 am shotgun start — Captain’s Choice ~~
- ~~ \$100 per person (includes green fees, cart, and lunch) ~~

Gold Sponsor (signage, foursome and lunch)	\$5,000
Lunch Sponsor (signage, foursome and lunch)	\$2,500
Silver Sponsor (foursome and lunch)	\$1,000
Bronze Sponsor (hole sponsor and lunch for 4)	\$500
Corporate Hole Sponsor	\$300
Porto/PCI Family Sponsor	\$100
Individual Golf Player (golf and lunch for 1)	\$100
Lunch only	\$30

*Contributions are tax deductible under Federal 501 (c) (3) guidelines*

Make checks payable to Porto Charities Inc. and mail to:

Bill Mundy, 4519 Gilbertson Road, Fairfax, VA 22032

Questions: bill.mundy@aol.com or 703-978-7544

**Registration deadline is September 21, 2012**

## Registration Form

### Fourth Annual Porto Charities Inc., Golf Outing Friday, October 12, 2012

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Company Name/Type of business \_\_\_\_\_

Home/Business phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**I am registering for the following (please check all that apply):**

Gold Sponsorship (Event banner)**	\$5,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lunch/Gift Sponsorship**	\$2,500	<input type="checkbox"/>
Silver Sponsorship**	\$1,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bronze Sponsorship (hole or tee sponsor and lunch for 4)	\$500	<input type="checkbox"/>
Corporate Hole Sponsor	\$300	<input type="checkbox"/>
Porto/PCI Family Sponsor	\$100	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foursome Registration (golf and lunch for 4)	\$400	<input type="checkbox"/>
Individual Registration (golf and lunch for 1)	\$100	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lunch for 1	\$30	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unable to attend, but would like to contribute	Amount:	

*\*\*Sponsorship includes foursome and lunch, hole sponsorship, and special recognition*

My foursome will include the following players:

- |          |          |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 2. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 4. _____ |

Questions? Please contact Bill Mundy at 703.978.7544 or BillM10049@aol.com. Please send your registration form and check made payable to Porto Charities, Inc., to: Bill Mundy, 4519 Gilbertson Road, Fairfax, VA 22032. **Deadline is September 21, 2012.**





**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.

Organizations awarded charitable donations for this year include: ARC of Northern Virginia, ArtStream, Inc., Arlington Diocese "Keyboard for Kids" program, Autism Society of No. VA, Best Buddies Virginia, Central Fairfax Services, Inc., Down Syndrome Association of No. VA, Gabriel Homes, Inc., GMU Life Program, Joey Pizzano Memorial Fund, Paul VI HS Options Program, Pope John Paul the Great HS Options Program, S. John Davis Career Center, Special Olympics of No. VA Area 26, St. Louis Parish Special Education Program, St. Mark Catholic School Evangelist Program, Still Meadows Enrichment Center and Camp, Villa Maria Work Study Center, and Wildflour Catering.

### 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](mailto:sadkinsblanch@portocharities.org).**