

NEWSLETTER



Hello Friends,

After a long, hot summer, we are now in the fall. It's a wonderful reminder that the holiday season of giving is now upon us. Please keep reading to see what's been happening at Petra Cares since our launch this past June. We appreciate you!



Why We Do What We Do

STATISTICS FOR YOUTH AGING OUT OF FOSTER CARE

80%

will end up either homeless, in jail, or dead within three years of aging out of foster care

<2%

will earn a college degree, essentially ensuring another generation of poverty.

60%

score below their peers in standardized testing.

Petra Cares is dedicated to removing barriers to educate and empower parentless and parenting young adults.

A Message from Our Leadership

We are thrilled to share some exciting news about Petra Cares! We've been on quite a journey since we committed to entering the world of youth aging out of foster care and at-risk/homeless youth. We have seen several of our dedicated and resilient students graduate from our Auto Tech Program. We are proud of their hard work, determination, and passion to take hold of their futures. Now equipped with the skills and knowledge gained through our program, many have transitioned into a rewarding career in the automotive industry.

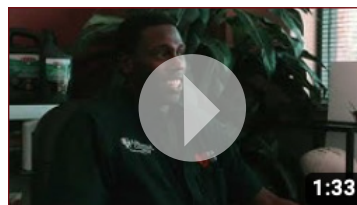
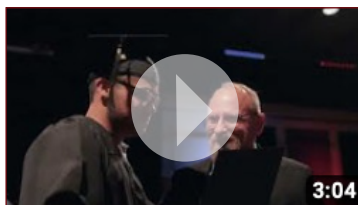
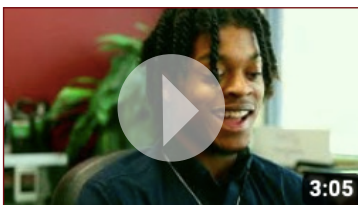
We are grateful for the support of our donors, volunteers, and Lone Star College, who have all made this possible, and we look forward to continuing to pursue our mission of "unlocking purpose for the vulnerable" as they navigate their way toward a brighter future.

Brian Meza
Executive Director, Petra Cares

We started this journey thinking that we would build orphanages around the world, but through God-sent people, we changed that journey to help the least of these – young adults either exiting the foster care program or homeless. We are picking up those nobody else wants and sharing God's love not by words but by action. We are bringing them in, teaching them how to be technicians, and finding them jobs. Instead of potentially being dead, incarcerated, or homeless, these young adults are finding purpose, jobs, and paychecks. They are experiencing a positive life change that will ripple for generations.

I cannot believe the journey we are on, and every graduating class and every face that I see reminds me of how important it is to give back, to love and care for the least of these, and to do everything I can with God's help to change generations to come. Thank you for being part of that!

Arnold Gacita, Sr.
President & CEO, Petra Automotive Products



What People Are Saying

“Petra Cares is doing the work very few people want to do. But it’s the stuff that wins the Nobel Peace prize. We can’t undo a child’s past, but we can sure make a kid’s future brighter. That’s the beauty and exciting part of it.” - the Honorable Judge Eric Andell.

Student Richard Arredondo said he has always been interested in fixing cars. “I like taking things apart but it’s a lot harder putting them back together,” he said, proudly noting the class recently “took apart a complete alternator and put it back together.” Arredondo works at Kramer Autoplex in Livingston, Texas, north of Houston but hopes to continue his schooling with an eye toward engineering.

— Student/Graduate Richard Arredondo

“Technicians are the most important part of an auto dealership. I’ve invested my time and money to work with these individuals who have gone through the foster care system, to help them get jobs, not only in my stores but through my friendships in the car business. In 1983, I started out in the shop as a janitor. Then I became an entry-level technician. That was 40 years

Richard Arredondo has since enrolled at Lone Star College and will begin taking night classes working toward his degree, while working during the day.

ago. Now I own dealerships. In high school, I took auto shop for two years. They just don’t offer that anymore. There are so few curriculums that offer skill sets that you can use to get a job.”

— Chuck Kramer, Dealer Principle, Kramer Autoplex

Participant Caleb Shelton said he wants to “build a car from the ground up. Petra Cares can help me understand the actual things I need to build a car. I’m looking forward to graduating, getting a job, and setting myself up for the future.”

— Student/Graduate Caleb Shelton

In The News » Click below to view our coverage in the news!

[Automotive News](#)

[Fox 26 Houston](#)

[CW 39 Houston](#)



Class 3 students and supporters of Petra Cares surround Texas Senator Paul Bettencourt and the Honorable Judge Eric Andell during a day of training.

Our 3rd class of the year started in October!

Monday, October 9th kicked off our our last 7-week course of the year. There are 8 students enrolled in the course and are ready to take the important step toward what they want the most, independence. We can’t wait to see where this new class will go!

Save the Date

Thursday, February 22, 2024

We would be honored for you to join us for our inaugural PetraCares Fundraising Gala. On Thursday, February 22, 2024, at 7 pm, we will host an inspirational evening at the Houston Club in downtown Houston as we reflect on our first-year accomplishments and look ahead into 2024.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE »](#)



Congratulations!

We are proud to have graduated 11 students in our first two classes!



In our first class, we graduated four; in our second class, we saw seven graduates earn the Level 1 Lube Technician Certification from Lone Star College.

Petra Cares Spotlight

Richard Arredondo

2023 Graduate Class 1

Employed at Kramer AutoPlex

We have grown as an organization and learned so much about our students and the foster care system. We can say without a doubt that Petra Cares is changing lives. We have placed our graduates in wonderful jobs at places like Hyundai North Houston, Gullo Toyota, Milstead Automotive, Kramer AutoPlex, and Houston Hermetics. Here is what Derrick Supernaw, Service Manager at Kramer AutoPlex said about recent Petra Cares graduate, Richard Arredondo:

“We are very happy with Richard. He’s doing wonderful! He’s a team player and learns quickly...”

-Derrick Supernaw, Service Manager at Kramer AutoPlex

Your gift of \$10,000 to Petra Cares will help make a life changing impact in the life of 1 student for generations to come!

\$10,000 pays for a student’s tuition, books, toolbox, uniform, transportation, and meals.

Donate online now at [Petra-Cares.org](https://petra-cares.org)

