

Summer 2025 Graduation: A Night of Triumph, Transformation, and Surprise

June 2025

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On May 30, 2025, the Petra Cares community came together to celebrate something extraordinary—the graduation of 14 remarkable young men who have not only completed our seven-week intensive technician training program but are now stepping into bright new futures.

Unlocking Purpose, One Story at a Time

Under the guidance of Emcee Brian Meza, Petra Cares Executive Director, the ceremony was a moving reflection of the courage and resilience these young adults have shown throughout their journey. These students—many of whom have faced instability, homelessness, or aged out of foster care—have now earned the skills, confidence, and job offers that will change the trajectory of their lives.

Our Summer 2025 graduates:

- Levi Patterson
- Ryan Perez
- Henry McCoy
- Juan Lugo
- Rosendo Huerta
- Clay Collins
- Christian Freites
- Ricardo Magdaleno
- Jonah Mays
- Jamail James



- Demorean Williams
- Walter Olgetree
- Erick Guzman
- James Sullivan

We're proud to share that all 14 students have job offers or are in the final stages of placement, with employers such as Mac Haik, Joe Meyers Ford, and Mustang Cat.

A Big Thank you to Lone Star's Keith Coleman for supporting our mission and our students, and for his belief in our kids!

A Speaker Who's Walked in Their Shoes

Our special guest speaker, Judge Dan Simon, brought powerful and heartfelt words of encouragement to the graduates. As someone who spent part of his youth in the foster care system, Judge Simon spoke from experience, reminding the students that their past does not define their future—and that they are never alone on the road ahead.

A Powerful Surprise

The ceremony opened with a beautiful moment of reflection, with Michael Thompson leading a prayer. And in one unforgettable moment, Jamail James was surprised with the keys to his very own car—a gift from Petra Cares supporters MJ and Travis Alvarado, who generously donated the vehicle to help Jamail start his career on the right foot.

Wisdom, Gratitude, and Celebration

Founder and Board President Arnold Gacita addressed the graduates with a message of perseverance and hope, underscoring the purpose behind Petra Cares and the importance of believing in the potential of every young person. We were also honored to have several board members join us in celebrating this incredible milestone. Thank you to Board Members Willie Daughters, Sam and Kim Diaz and Ken Ballard.

Our deep thanks go to:

- Lone Star College
- Cypress Republicans
- The Joshua Project and



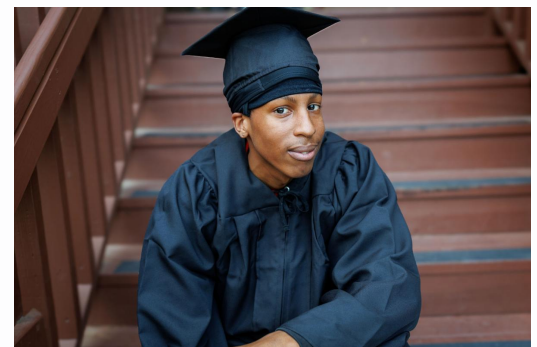
The Met Church – vital partners in this mission

- Life Skills Week presenters – for equipping our students with real-world tools
- Lunch sponsors – Freddy's and Taco Bell for fueling our students with kindness and great food

A Night to Remember

The night concluded with hugs, laughter, photos, cupcakes, and refreshments as graduates, families, mentors, and staff celebrated this transformational step. What began as a 7-week program ended as a launchpad into lifelong careers—and lifelong confidence.

At Petra Cares, we know that unlocking purpose transforms lives. This class is proof. Here's to their next chapter—and to the lives and generations that will change because of it.





[Click here to meet the Graduates](#)



Petra Cares Staff

Brian Meza
Executive Director

Kimberly Elliott
Director of Development

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1ST ANNUAL

DRIVING FUTURES

PETRA CARES GOLF TOURNAMENT

Save The Date
Driving Futures
1st Annual Golf Tournament
At Highland Pines
benefiting Petra Cares
We need Sponsors and Golfers!
10/28/25

Cohort #11

We have 10 new students who are enrolled and ready to start class on June 9th. There are plenty of opportunities for you as donors to see come your dollars in action. Come and take a tour and visit the class - contact Kimberly Elliott kelliott@petra-cares.org to organize.



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