

November 2025

## Welcome to November at Petra Cares!

### *A Word from our Executive Director*

Dear Friends of Petra Cares,

As we step into November and the season of gratitude, I'm thrilled to share that we've just begun our final cohort of the year, and the energy is inspiring. Eleven young adults have joined us, full of hope and determination, ready to learn and take their first steps into the workforce. Their eagerness reminds us why Petra Cares exists: to open doors, build futures, and walk alongside those who need it most.

Thanks to your continued support, we've reached 63 young men this year, and we're only getting started! Your generosity fuels our mission and makes transformation possible.

To our donors: your belief in Petra Cares is the foundation of everything we do. Whether you've given your time, resources, or encouragement, you've helped create pathways to opportunity for youth who need it most. We are deeply grateful for your partnership and the impact you've made.

In this season of giving, we want to pause and say thank you. Your support is changing lives, and we are honored to have you with us on this journey.

With appreciation,



*Brian Meza*

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PETRA CARES

## Driving Futures Golf Tournament Recap

The first annual Driving Futures Golf Tournament was a resounding success!

From friendly competition on the course to powerful moments of community, it was

an unforgettable day filled with purpose and generosity.

Thanks to the incredible support of our golfers, sponsors, and volunteers, the event raised over **\$150,000** to help young adults aging out of foster care gain the skills, certifications, and confidence they need to thrive.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who made this day possible — together, we're truly driving futures forward.

Relive the highlights and see the impact below.



[View Tournament Highlights](#)

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## A Season of Gratitude

This Thanksgiving, we're celebrating gratitude through the voices of those who inspire us most — our students. Hear from a few Petra Cares graduates as they reflect on what they're thankful for and how the program helped open new doors in their lives.

"Petra Cares is a great opportunity for anyone who is serious about finding a working career. Other opportunities looked past me, but Petra Cares gave me a chance to turn my life around. They are forever family. Thank you, Petra Cares!"

### **Devonte Mingo**

Cohort 11  
River Oaks CDJR

"Cast off and without future, being taken in by the Petra Cares auto technician program was not merely a job training and placement offer; it was the decisive intervention that saved my life and gave me a meaningful new trajectory."

### **Ryan Perez**

Cohort 9  
Mac Haik Toyota  
League City

"I am thankful I was given the opportunity to achieve higher heights. I am also grateful to have had the chance to work with Mr. Schield and Mr. Brian, and the rest of the Petra Cares team. They supported me every step of the way."

### **Keith Kinchlow**

Cohort 12  
Jiffy Lube  
Cypress

# Welcome Cohort 13!

We're thrilled to welcome **Cohort 13**, who began their training journey on **October 27!**

These students are now hard at work in the classroom and the shop, gaining hands-on automotive experience and life skills that will set them up for lasting success.

Every new cohort represents a new chapter in our mission — and we can't wait to see what this remarkable group will accomplish.



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## Board Member Spotlight : Ken Ballard

This month, we're honored to spotlight **Ken Ballard**, Treasurer and longtime member of the Petra Cares Board of Directors.

Ken first connected with Petra Cares' founder, Arnold Gacita, during a 2020 WoodsEdge Community Church trip to Israel — a meeting that would lead to something extraordinary.

"I wanted to retire and felt God calling me to get involved with a nonprofit. Not long after that, Arnold called and said his company wanted to start one — and asked if I'd join. We didn't know exactly what Petra Cares would be, but Jesus took the wheel, and here we are today."



Ken has been part of the Petra Cares journey from the very beginning, helping build a "boots-on-the-ground" nonprofit with a Biblical foundation to serve young adults aging out of foster care.

“To see these students succeed — and the smiles on their faces when they graduate — humbles me. It’s proof that God is using this work for a purpose greater than our own.”

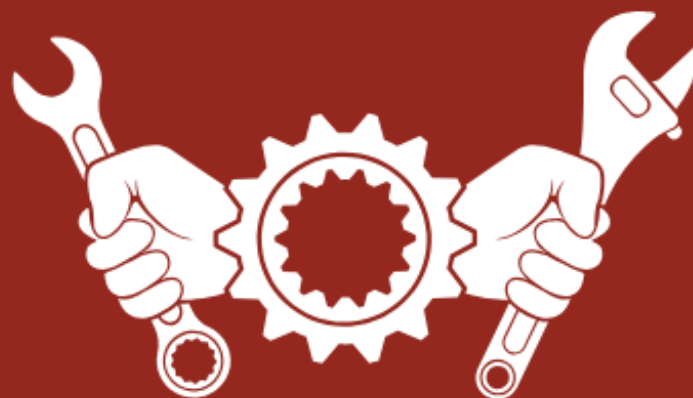
When asked what excites him most about the future, Ken says,

“We’ve only scratched the surface. With the Lord’s leadership, I believe Petra Cares will see exponential growth in the next five years — expanding regionally, nationally, and in the types of training we provide.”

Outside of Petra Cares, Ken enjoys an active retirement filled with family, travel, and community service. Married to his best friend Cathy for nearly 47 years, Ken is a proud father of three and grandfather of nine. He’s an avid sports fan, gym enthusiast, and lifelong Tex-Mex lover (Lupe Tortilla tops the list).

Ken sums up his life philosophy simply:

**“Love the Lord with all your heart, soul, and mind — and your neighbor as yourself.”**



## Your Impact in Action

Total Students Served:

**121**

Graduation Rate:

**72%**

Placement Rate:

**78%**



## **By the Numbers**

Every number represents a real life changed — and your support makes it possible.

## **Thank You**

Your generosity fuels everything we do.

Together, we're not just training students — we're transforming futures.

-The Petra Cares Team

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