

October 2025

Welcome to October at Petra Cares!

A Word from our Executive Director

Dear friends,

As we step out of summer and into the fall season, anticipation builds with the holidays approaching and all the joy they bring. Yet for many of our students, this time of year is marked by solitude and uncertainty. Coming from broken homes, they are often navigating life on their own.

But let me share some good news: We are doing something about this! We are currently interviewing for our final cohort of the year, and at the end of each interview, we ask where they see themselves in the future. Nearly every student envisions working at a great dealership, supporting themselves and building a family of their own. It's easy to understand why having a family is a huge part of their dreams.

In just over two and a half years, Petra Cares has impacted 121 lives! Many of these young men are now employed, advancing in their careers, and yes—some are even supporting families of their own. This is the power of walking alongside someone and equipping them with the tools to succeed. Be encouraged—the good work continues!

Sincerely,

Brian Meza

Golf Tournament Helicopter Ball Drop

Win a chance at an Unforgettable Ferrari Fantasy

HELICOPTER GOLF BALL DROP

Raffle Tickets Available Now!

BUNDLE AND SAVE!

1 BALL - \$100; 3 FOR \$275, 5 FOR \$425



We're thrilled to share that there will be a **Helicopter Ball Drop at this year's Driving Futures Golf Tournament on October 28**. This unique event gives participants the chance to win incredible prizes while supporting Petra Cares' mission to empower young adults aging out of foster care.

Raffle ticket close at 12:00 PM on October 27. Only 500 balls will be sold!

Prizes:

- **Grand Prize:** Ferrari Experience in Italy
- **Second Prize:** Fully Stocked Wine and Liquor Hornitos Cooler
- **Third Prize:** Tito's Prize Package

You do not need to be present to win. Every ball purchased helps fund life-changing programs that equip young adults with the skills and opportunities they need to thrive.

**Purchase Golf Balls
Here**

Life Skills Week Highlights

Life Skills Week wrapped up with a series of powerful sessions designed to equip our students with essential skills that extend far beyond the classroom. From financial literacy to personal development, each presentation helped prepare our students for the road ahead.

A heartfelt thank you to all of our presenters for sharing their time, expertise, and encouragement. Your support plays a vital role in helping our students build strong, sustainable futures.

Thank you to our presenters: Eric Garcia, Floyd Stubblefield, Jason Escobedo, Roberto Olivas, HR Houston, Brian Meza and Arnold Gacita.



HR Houston presents
"Strategies for Workplace Success"



Floyd Stubblefield guides students through **"Kintsugi Art"** presentation



Arnold Gacita helps students focus on **"Goal Setting"** for personal and professional growth

Celebrating Cohort 12

Our 12th cohort has officially completed their training — a milestone that represents not just new skills, but new beginnings. Over the past several weeks, these students gained hands-on automotive experience and essential life skills, equipping them to build sustainable, independent futures beyond foster care.

We're proud to share that three students have earned their ASE Certification in Repair and Light Maintenance and are now working in the field. Congratulations to these incredible young men!

Cohort 12 wrapped up their journey with a celebration at The Derby, marking their final day together and the start of exciting new chapters ahead.

Cohort 13 begins October 27, and interviews are already underway. We can't wait to welcome another stellar class to the Petra Cares family.



Welcome to our new Board Members

Dave Bates and Laura Sherman

We're excited to welcome two exceptional leaders to the Petra Cares Board of Directors. Their extensive experience and passion for the automotive industry will strengthen our mission and help guide the organization's continued growth.

Dave Bates brings more than 40 years of experience in the automotive industry through his leadership at Reynolds and Reynolds. He began his career there in 1983 as a hardware field engineer, later transitioning into technical support and management roles. In 2006, Dave was promoted to Vice President of Support, and since 2019, he has served as Chief Customer Ambassador and Vice President of Customer Relations.

Throughout his career, Dave has been known for his deep understanding of dealer needs, his commitment to customer relationships, and his ability to bring the voice of the customer to the forefront of every decision.

Dave shared, "I believe in the mission that Petra Cares has, and I am excited to have the opportunity to support that mission and utilize my understanding of the automotive space to help Petra Cares continue to grow and succeed."



Laura Sherman began her automotive journey at just 19 years old as a dealership receptionist — and she never left the industry. Over the next 40 years, she worked her way up through nearly every role, including Controller and General Manager, gaining a deep understanding of dealership operations from the inside out.

Today, Laura serves as Managing Partner of Dealer Merchant Services (DMS) — now part of Priority Technology Holdings (NASDAQ: PRTN) and recently ranked #120 on the 2025 Inc. 5000 list and #9 in Financial Services. Through her work, she helps dealerships across the country reduce costs and maintain compliance with transparent, innovative surcharging solutions.

Outside the automotive world, Laura is an avid painter who finds creativity and calm through art — a balance that reflects her leadership style and passion for helping others grow.

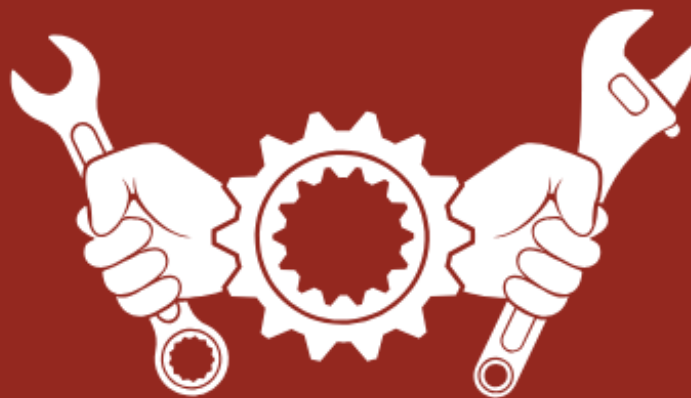
Please join us in welcoming Dave and Laura to the Petra Cares family!

Save the Date for our 2026 Gala! *Friday, April 10, 2026*

We are thrilled to announce that the 3rd Annual Petra Cares Gala will take place on Friday, April 10, 2026, at The Revaire at 7122 Old Katy Road, Houston, TX 77024.

This unforgettable evening will bring together community leaders, partners, and supporters to celebrate the mission of Petra Cares — transforming the lives of young adults aging out of foster care — with a special guest speaker to be announced soon.

Save the date and join us for an inspiring night of purpose, connection, and hope. Together, we can continue driving change and creating brighter futures.



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

Petra Cares Staff

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