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Becoming Family. Encouraging Potential. Empowering Community.

A banner for First Glance's 25th anniversary. It features a teal top section with the text "First Glance" and a circular logo containing "25 YEARS". Below this is a large green section with the title "Stories of Transformation" in bold black font, followed by the tagline "25 Years. One Mission. Countless Lives **Transformed**." The bottom section is black with the text "A note from our Co-Founder: Karen Freeman" in white.

First Glance **25**
YEARS

Stories of Transformation

25 Years. One Mission. Countless Lives **Transformed**.

A note from our Co-Founder: Karen Freeman

Way back before the days of the internet and social media, First Glance students only knew what they knew.

We thought it would be fun to take the teen moms outside of their small world—which, at the time, was mainly Kenmore Blvd. and the surrounding blocks. And why not take them to a bigger city and a fun restaurant known for its burgers? So, without any kids, we loaded up the moms and headed to the Hard Rock Café in Cleveland. They were hesitant, to say the least. One even said she couldn't go because she was afraid to fly. :)

As we drove into the city, they shared how they could never imagine working in a place like that. Naturally, I said, "**Of course you can. You can do anything you set your mind to.**" I wasn't sure they believed me, though.

At the restaurant, they nervously scanned their menus. That's when we learned one of them couldn't read, and the others didn't recognize much of what was listed. They were thankful the menu had photos. Every single one of them ordered a plain hamburger—they were too unsure to try anything unfamiliar. After talking more, we realized none of them had ever been to a sit-down restaurant. Dairy Queen was the closest they'd come.



All these years later, I smile thinking about where these moms have landed. I remember the world we tried to open up to them—the classes we offered on motherhood, providing for their kids, holding jobs, being dependable employees, managing money, and so much more. **Now, they're doing it.** All the things they once thought they couldn't do. The things they couldn't even imagine.



And their stories aren't done yet. I still see them trying new things, going back to school, and finding better jobs. *My favorite moments? When they talk about taking their kids to church.* It takes me back to when we first wrote our mission statement—so many years ago: *We exist to connect students and their communities to Christ and the Church through real, loving, and non-threatening avenues.*

It's beautiful to see that mission still unfolding.

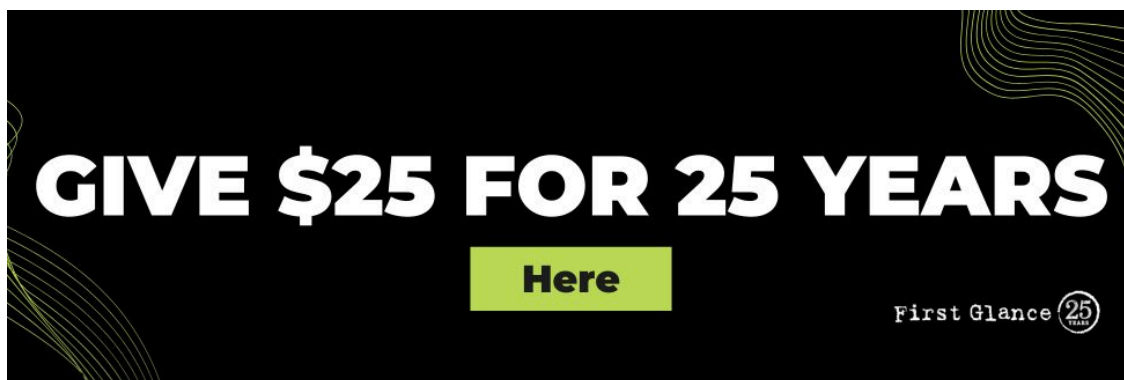
**From the Heart of Karen Freeman, Co-Founder of First Glance*

Monthly Giving That Transforms

a monthly donor, you can provide steady, reliable support that helps us plan for the future and meet students where they are. *Your generosity opens doors and creates safe spaces where young people learn to believe in life beyond Kenmore Blvd ...a life filled with hope, purpose, and the love of Christ.* **We invite you to consider joining our [monthly donor](#) family.** Every gift, no matter the size, transforms lives and helps us continue this important work.

We truly appreciate your support and the difference you make.

With gratitude,
Jessica Swiger
Executive Director



Your contribution makes a **huge** impact.
Learn more about how First Glance is impacting the lives of students and families.

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