

YOUR IMPACT THROUGH First Glance



This summer was full of fun, intentional experiences, and meaningful connections. From Rec Night's water war to The Connect's splash pad adventure, and a poolside evening at Ladies' Night Out, each event provided space for relationships to grow and memories to be made.

On September 20th, we celebrated our 25-year reunion with over 350 people joining us. Past and current students, as well as past and present volunteers, and even the next generation of First Glance kids, came together. It was inspiring to hear how First Glance has shaped lives, including students who are now seeing the impact of First Glance in their own children. The reunion was a beautiful reminder of how Jesus continues to transform lives through our programs and the generational impact of our work.

We look forward to keeping this celebration going at our 14th Annual Auction on November 15th. These events are a time to reflect, reconnect, and celebrate all that God is doing through First Glance.



THANK YOU, LAUREN!

WE ♥ OUR VOLUNTEERS

Volunteer Spotlight – Lauren Murray

Lauren volunteers at our Ladies' Night Out program, and she shared with us, ***"I want to do something for Jesus. I know He loves these girls, and I want to be a part of His life and theirs. We all have fun together no matter the activity. Some of the best moments come from just playing games. Getting to know the girls over time has been such a blessing."***

Thank you, Lauren! We are so grateful for volunteers like you who mentor our students, investing their time at First Glance and sharing love, faith, and guidance. **Ladies' Night Out meets on Tuesdays from 5:00–7:00 PM, and we need more mentors and volunteers to join us.** Come be part of this program and help our students grow in confidence, faith, and community!



PARTNERING WITH APS FOR SUMMER ADVENTURE

This summer our Launch Kenmore program had the privilege of partnering with Akron Public Schools to host a free Adventure Camp for students. Together we created opportunities for learning and connection as campers explored places like the Nature Realm, Summit Lake Nature Center, the Cleveland Aquarium, and the Akron Zoo. Students not only had fun but also discovered how to care for wildlife and give back to their community. They proudly presented projects such as handmade blankets for the Summit Humane Society, research on their favorite animals, and creative dioramas of habitats. Thanks to this partnership and to the support of people like you, students experienced hands-on learning that built confidence, creativity, and a sense of purpose.





MAKE A LASTING IMPACT EVERY MONTH

Becoming a monthly donor is one of the most effective ways to support our mission and help students in our community experience connection, growth, and transformation. Reoccurring monthly gifts provide stability, allowing us to plan programs, fund field trips, provide meals, and create opportunities students wouldn't have beyond our doors. **This year, we have a special goal to grow our monthly donor community, and every new and returning supporter helps us reach more students throughout the year.** As we celebrate 25 years of ministry, we thank all those who have already joined our campaign. If you haven't signed up yet, we would love to help you get started—gifts can be set up easily through your bank, employer giving programs, or PayPal. **Reach out to Lena@firstglance.org** to set up your reoccurring monthly gift today and help us continue transforming lives for the years to come.

STORIES OF TRANSFORMATION

Back in 2022, I first met three brothers at Rec Night. We instantly connected, and soon I was picking them up every Wednesday to bring them to the youth group I led. Afterward, we'd head to their Nana's house, where "Wing Night" was a weekly tradition for us all. Over the years, I watched these young men navigate difficult challenges, yet grow into responsible young men, and develop their own faith. One summer night in 2023, Desmond and his brother Jinx came to my apartment to watch a livestream of a youth conference. That night, the speaker shared the Gospel, and Desmond connected deeply with the message. **When I asked if he wanted to invite Christ into his life, he said yes! After we prayed, he shared that the aches and pains in his body were gone, and that he was instantly filled with the joy of the Lord. The rest of the evening was spent singing worship songs, reading scripture, and celebrating this transformative moment.** There was a season when I didn't see Desmond for a while, but eventually, he and his brothers returned to Rec Night. **Through our Hip Hop program, one-on-one Bible studies, and consistent mentorship, I've seen Desmond's love for God continue to grow!** Today, he serves as a volunteer at Rec Night and shares his testimony through the music he creates. Stories like this remind me every day why First Glance exists. Because of supporters like you, students have a safe, supportive place to explore faith, build confidence, and experience the love of Jesus firsthand. Your support creates opportunities for transformation, mentorship, and lifelong connection in our community. **We are looking for volunteers to join us at Rec Night on Thursdays from 7:00-9:00 PM.** Come be part of this life-changing program and make a lasting impact in the lives of students!

Story shared by Xavier Adekunle



And the only reason I was able to even go anywhere as a kid was because of you guys I grew up in a poor household and a bad household, and I'm not afraid to talk about it now but back then I was you guys changed lives

RECONNECTING WITH FORMER STUDENTS



Christina Eiseuson
Heather Hyres Backupaccount my home away from home fr



Nicole Elizabeth Burns

Then and now!!!! 2007 -2025. How was this 18 years ago? I had a lot of amazing memories here and so grateful for the years I spent here.

Thank you for everything you've done and continue to do for the community!

A few months ago, we had the bittersweet honor of celebrating the life of Nigel, one of our beloved students who visited First Glance over 250 times. While we deeply grieve his passing, it was a gift to gather with so many who knew and loved him. More than 30 alumni came back to reconnect, share stories, and reflect on the impact First Glance has had in their lives.

Some told us it "feels the same" walking through our doors, while others shared how First Glance helped them through hard seasons. One young woman even got emotional remembering Pierre's pizza, and how she was never hungry at First Glance. Another shared that even though he only came a few times, it kept him from really bad situations. As we laughed over old photos and stats, stories of transformation, gratitude, and hope poured out. In our 25th year, moments like this remind us why First Glance was created in the first place—to be a safe place filled with love, belonging, and the hope of Jesus! God continues to use this community to impact lives, not just for a season, but for a lifetime.

PRAYER TRANSFO

We would love for you to join us in prayer...

• Praise God that we have filled our



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