



Anne-Marie Finnell

# ANNE-MARIE FINNELL & KELLY LEE

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Kelly Lee

## What initiative have you/your organization taken to help people during the pandemic? Who participated?

Kelly and I became ambassadors for Families4Families (families4familiesdmv.org) in March, and then a week later started our own Drop Zone for the organization. We are in charge of the American University Park Drop Zone.

—Anne-Marie Finnell

We served as a drop zone for 10 families a week to deliver a week's worth of groceries to families in need. We solicited families to drop groceries, then delivered the week's worth of groceries to the assigned partner organization for that week.

—Kelly Lee

## Whose idea was it?

F4F was founded by Amanda Marshall and her family. She is the founder of Fair Chance, an organization that our team has supported for years. Fair Chance has many non-profit partners in Wards 5 through 8 of DC, and Families4Families uses those partnerships to determine the specific needs of the most impacted families.

—Anne-Marie Finnell

## Did you work with an outside organization? If so, which one and how?

My business partner, Anne-Marie

Finnell, and I worked with Families4Families. —Kelly Lee

## How did your efforts help others?

We recruited 10 families to bring a week's worth of (specified) groceries to my house every Tuesday. We loaded them in our two cars and brought them to a non-profit organization in the Fair Chance network, where they were distributed to families in need.

—Anne-Marie Finnell

We provided food, face masks, hand sanitizer and toilet paper to families in need. The provisions were for a full week. —Kelly Lee

## How did the experience help you or your team grow while helping?

Being able to directly impact other families in our community has been so great. I went from feeling helpless to helpful overnight. We could see what an impact we were having on the community, even though it was only ten families per week.

—Anne-Marie Finnell

Our team is all about service and providing for others, this was just a small thing that we felt we could do to help those in need. It really felt great for the team to be able to take action in this important time where we have often felt powerless. —Kelly Lee

## What is the biggest lesson you've learned over the past four months?

I have grown more in the past four months than ever before. Being forced to slow down and turn inward has been an incredible gift that could not have come at a better time. I think the biggest lesson that I have learned is that everything I need, want, and love is right here in front of me already! I am very fortunate and being grateful has brought with it a strong desire to give back to the community I love.

—Anne-Marie Finnell



Anne-Marie Finnell and Kelly Lee in action, delivering groceries for Families4Families.



There are hungry families in our backyard. Many folks are just one paycheck away from hunger. We need to do better as a city and a country to feed our own. —Kelly Lee

## Is there anything the Real Producers community could provide or do to help in your efforts?

Sure! Families4Families is not only continuing their efforts through the fall, but they are expanding and transitioning into area schools. Through the school communities, they can scale their efforts and get younger generations involved. My kids and Kelly's kids are taking leadership roles at their schools

to continue this work and they will surely be looking for volunteers! I have also been asked to join the board of Families4Families, about which I am very excited!

—Anne-Marie Finnell

Just getting the word out about this organization is great. Families4Families is starting clubs in many of the DMV schools to help these families throughout the school year. —Kelly Lee