

GIVEFINITY

Featuring Amy and Kenton Gardinier



Maybe after reading all the previous stories, you believe people only make their impact by starting nonprofits, joining them, or simply volunteering, but let's rethink that idea. While those are some of the most common you hear about, there are many more creative ways you can serve the community! Don't believe me? Then next, listen to the story of Amy and Kenton Gardinier, founders of an app called Givefinity.

To Amy and Kenton, serving the community and helping the people around them in their local community was always something important. "Just setting that example of helping others through different organizations and seeding that desire of serving the community was something important we wanted to instill in our daughters," Amy says. So when her oldest daughter was documenting all her volunteer hours on a piece of paper, questions popped into Amy's head. "When I saw all that, I wondered what would happen to the kids who lost their paper or those who forgot to get the signatures from the supervisor. There was just all this room for error and stress areas that were completely unnecessary!"



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These thoughts got Amy and Kenton thinking about what they could do to help and thus came the creation of Givefinity. As Amy further describes it, "Givefinity is an app for anybody that either has a want, desire, or need to track their volunteer time on their phones! However, we not only want it to track, but we also want something tangible for high schoolers to use a report or report card of the skills they've developed over the four years." Givefinity does more than just track hours. As Amy said, it can collect all the information a person enters and organize it to create either report for high schoolers about applying for college or even a dashboard for volunteer organizations.

But how does an app impact the community, you might ask? Well, it's an app that aids those who continue to pour their time and effort into community service. Not only that, the app is entirely free! "Making the app free was one of our most important decisions," Amy exclaimed. The focus on getting to know and talking to high schoolers who were using the app was a significant player in Amy and Kenton's part in developing the app. "In our high school focus group, many returned and said the paid part was the problem, so we pivoted and made it free for everyone!" Many high schoolers often depend financially on their guardians or parents, so removing the paid aspect of the app made it more accessible to a more diverse amount of students of all ages and backgrounds.

Download the app:

<https://givefinity.com/download-the-app/>

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Givefinity continues to make its impact as months go on, and even though there have been challenges along the road with starting a company during a pandemic, Amy and Kenton continue to improve the app and make the lives of millions of high schoolers easier just by the click of a few buttons.

Their advice to you? "Go for it! Often we can create roadblocks and 'what-ifs,' so I would just say go for it and just see what happens." Amy is exactly right. You can impact the community in so many different, innovative, and unique ways that no one has thought of. Your idea could be an app, a sale, a small business, a fundraiser, an event, or more. Without hesitation, push forward with whatever idea you have that you think impacts the community. Don't be restricted to the limits of your mind and definitely not by those of society.

