Kirlin-Egan and Butler Funeral home has planned its next step and it will be taken hand-in-hand with the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln.

The Springfield business has been in existence for more than 100 years with a long history of community philanthropy, and in preparing for the next century of business Kirlin-Egan and Butler has established the **Butler Community Endowment** through the Community Foundation.

“The mission of the endowment is to assist local charities that improve the quality of life for people in the community,” said Chris Butler, President of Kirlin-Egan and Butler. “This will go beyond anyone who is currently with us here.”

The endowment will be funded through contributions by the funeral home for every human or pet burial or cremation that it does. The donations will be made in the name of the person or the pet.

“What we’re looking for is something we can do for the families we serve, what is a gift we can give to our customers? If the memory of someone or a pet is a gift to have shared, how can we perpetuate that,” Butler said. “As a business that is successful and has had success, we certainly want to do our part.”

The plan has already received rave reviews from the families involved.

“This is something that I have already found meaningful. I’m getting cards and letters specifically about this,” Butler said. “It’s already touching the people out there.”

The endowment will be a donor-advised fund. Full and part-time employees of the funeral home will have an opportunity to serve on the advisory board for the Butler Community Endowment. The fund will target different charitable groups each year, including those focused on helping animals. The board will also help bring an objective, neutral stance on which organizations receive assistance.

“One of the great things of our profession is that we meet people from all walks of life,” Butler said. “We’ve met a lot of people from different charitable efforts. This might help make the process more objective.”

Butler expects the endowment to eventually reach several charities each year. It is an opportunity to help that he relishes.

“It helps build a legacy which is something we feel is important,” Butler said.