The Capital Area Association of Realtors listened and learned, to the benefit of the local area.

Following discussion with a similar organization in Illinois, the Capital Area Association of REALTORS established the Capital Area Realtors Fund through the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln.

“This community has been wonderful to us and our businesses and I think that the task force and board of directors thought it was a good idea to give back to our community,” said Pete Steward, 2006-2007 President of the Capital Area Association of Realtors.

The local realtors focused on working with the Community Foundation after talking with colleagues at the Rockford Realtors Association who had success working with a similar organization in the Rockford area. The Capitol Area group established a task force to research the findings and decided to work with the Community Foundation.

“We stole the idea from them,” Steward said. “They were very helpful giving us their background work and stacks of paper. That’s what the task force looked at.”

The fund will operate independently of the organization’s current philanthropic efforts through its Community Services Committee. The organization has members in Sangamon, Macoupin, Christian and Menard Counties.

“They are two totally separate entities,” Steward said. “This is another vehicle for (giving back).”

The organization plans on holding a fundraiser for the fund later this year. The goal is to grow the fund and then focus on the overall betterment of the community.