Horseshoes, basketball, wrestling mats and people filling hotel rooms. Those are a few of the things the Capital Area Sports Commission has helped deliver to Springfield.

Commission is striving to build off its past success of bringing events to Springfield, and part of that progress includes the creation of the **Capital Area Sports Commission Fund** through the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln.

“Our goal is to get amateur athletic sports to come to Springfield and get people to spend money in Springfield,” said Commission Board Member John Eck, Sr.

The Commission has brought several events to Springfield during the past few years, including:

- The National Horseshoe Pitchers Association World Tournament;
- United States Tumbling Association Nationals; and
- Great Lakes Valley Conference Men’s/Women’s Basketball Tournament.

Mainstream sports aren’t the only thing that might come to Springfield. Prior to deciding whether to attempt to bring an event into the city, the main focus is how many hotel rooms might be utilized by participants and fans.

“We run into stuff we’ve never heard of,” Eck said. “The first thing we ask is how many room nights.”

The Fund will be utilized to manage donations as the Commission often needs the ability to put down large bid deposits on events it would like to bring to the area. The Fund’s creation will help secure the Commission’s future ability to bid on events, especially if bids are being sought simultaneously. The 15-member Commission also provides volunteers for events such as the recent Illinois Marathon.

“We can cut red tape on getting things done in Springfield, and we can provide volunteers,” Eck said.