Charlie Cottle was a man to be emulated, a man to be honored.

Nancy Butcher, her husband Brad and more than a hundred others have done that by establishing the Charlie Cottle Scholarship Fund through the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln (formerly the Sangamon County Community Foundation). The fund will award a $1,000 college scholarship each year to a student athlete in high academic standing from Chatham Glenwood High School.

“It’s really exciting to be honoring a man like Charlie and helping kids that reflect the values Charlie held,” Nancy Butcher said. “He was a good mentor. Besides being a man who wanted his teams to have good sportsmanship and integrity, he was a very humble guy.”

Cottle was a fixture at Glenwood High School, establishing the football program in 1971 and coaching the Titans for 12 years. He was inducted in the Illinois High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame in April of 2002.

The idea of a scholarship fund began formulating after Cottle’s death in 2002. Nancy and Brad Butcher discussed the possibility of establishing a fund with Cottle’s widow, Judy, who provided her blessing.

“I’m so excited that his legacy will go on instead of being forgotten,” Judy Cottle said. “A lot of people in Chatham don’t know him now, but if they look at their football program, he is it in so many words.”

Judy and the Cottle’s two children, Trevor Cottle and Leslie Nehring, will rotate serving on the committee that reviews the scholarship applications.

“I don’t think there is a better way to honor him and have his legacy continue,” Judy Cottle said. “He was such a good man and left an impact on so many people.”

The Butchers solicited donations for the fund and contacted the Foundation to help organize and distribute the scholarships.

“We knew (working with the Community Foundation) was the way to go,” Nancy Butcher said. “To handle that kind of money and make sure it was secure and make sure it went for the purpose we said it was going to, this was the way to go.”

Scholarship applications are available at the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln website, www.CFLL.org. A three person advisory committee, comprised of a Cottle family member, a Chatham Glenwood High School teacher or counselor and a former Glenwood football player or friend of the Cottle family will review the applications each year.