David Edwards understands the intricacies of estate planning. It’s what he does for a living as a Springfield area lawyer. And when it came time to begin making his own future estate decisions, he chose the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln. Edwards and his wife Michelle recently established the Edwards-Hall Family Fund through the Community Foundation.

“I like the idea that it’s the community as a whole. It’s not set up to support a certain ideology,” Edwards said. “We could set up this fund to be used for a variety of things.”

The fund’s establishment is a continuation of a long line of philanthropic work by his and his wife’s families.

“This is a continuation of the legacy that our parents and grandparents have given over the years,” Edwards said. “We wanted to establish a tradition of giving and create a legacy for future generations of our family. (Our parents and grandparents) didn’t have donor-advised funds, but they were glad to see we were following in the sharing of the benefits we’ve been blessed with.”

Starting early on that legacy is especially crucial. While David Edwards is 35 years old and Michelle is 29, the idea of starting a fund early was alluring because of future benefits.

“If you start early, things can grow a lot more,” said Edwards, who compared it to retirement planning.

David and Michelle will serve as the fund’s advisors, but in the future David hopes to make it a larger family affair.

“We picture years from now something with kids and grandkids sitting around in a family environment where people can propose grants or where they think the money should go,” Edwards said.

The current plan does not call for the fund to focus on one area of philanthropy.

“Our passions include things that fulfill people’s faith and helping those who can’t help themselves,” Edwards said, “which is pretty vague.”

The Edwards discussed the fund’s development for the past year and found it gratifying to work with the Community Foundation.

“I appreciate the professionalism and the passion (the Community Foundation representatives) bring,” Edwards said.