Philanthropy doesn’t have to be about today, tomorrow or a year from now. Sometimes it’s about generations. The long-term thought process is being employed by the Eggleston family in the creation of the Eggleston Fund through the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln.

“I’m looking at it for several generations. That’s why I want to establish the fund early,” Tim Eggleston said. “It’s fun to think about what the fund will be in 50-100 years.”

Eggleston and his wife Debi created the donor-advised fund. Decision making, though, belongs to the next generation. The couple’s children, Aili, Alex and Aden will select what efforts the fund will back. The 16-year-old Aili and 13-year-old Alex will handle the duties until Aden, who is three years old, is able to participate. Grandparents, Richard and Sue Eggleston, will advise the children.

“The older two children will read through the (grants) and hopefully connect to a cause they want to contribute to,” Eggleston said. “I have no idea what they are going to do, but I’m really looking forward to seeing what they decide is important.”

The plan is for the decision making always to be done by the children while advised by grandparents. Eggleston looks forward to when he and his wife, who are in their forties, will play the role of advisors, but for now the enjoyment will be in watching his children interact with their grandparents in a non-traditional way.

“I think it’s going to be fun for our kids and parents to go through,” Eggleston said. “It’s great to see them do that and it’s a fun and a good introduction to philanthropy.”
The decision to have the children oversee the decision-making is part of an educational process on philanthropy. The family has been active in philanthropic projects, including several through Kiwanis club, but this is a new educational tool.

“We want to really ingrain into them that philanthropy is important,” Eggleston said. “We have been active with hands-on philanthropy but this is another opportunity outside of Kiwanis. ... Service is very important to us. We know philanthropy is a big part of that. We wanted to put it into action now. The kids know you need to make an impact on the community.”

Eggleston learned about the Community Foundation during a Kiwanis meeting. When the time came to creating the Fund, he knew the Foundation would provide the necessary outlet.

“I always thought this was a good idea ever since that meeting,” Eggleston said. “It was time to find out more. I didn’t want to deal with all the other areas of starting a foundation. This was ideal.”

For more information on donor-advised funds, please contact the Community Foundation at 789-4431.