Ginny Conlee enjoys retirement.

“I love it,” the Springfield resident said. “Now I can do things that I couldn’t before.”

Those things include volunteering with multiple local charitable organizations, serving on three area boards and taking care of her dogs. It also has included arranging her estate planning and thereby eliminating any worry of that task from clouding her golden years. As part of that planning, Conlee has established the G. Virginia Conlee Fund through the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln. The fund will be established through fifty percent of Conlee’s estate.

“It’s nice to know I don’t have to worry about it,” said Conlee, who will leave the other half of her estate to family. “It’s a feeling of orderliness and I like things to be orderly.”

The Fund will benefit six organizations, the Springfield Animal Protective League, Central Illinois Foodbank, Heifer International, Springfield First Day Fund, The Hope School Foundation and Senior Services of Central Illinois. Conlee serves on the boards of The Hope School, The Hope School Foundation and Senior Services of Central Illinois and has great respect for the work of the other agencies.

“Half (of my estate) needs to do some good for the larger community,” Conlee said. “If you have money to give away, you give it away. I find the older I get the less interested I am in having things. You should give your money away while you are able to enjoy doing so.”

The Community Foundation will deliver earnings from the G. Virginia Conlee Fund to the six organizations on a yearly basis. It is a method that Conlee, who worked 31 years for the State of Illinois, hopes will provide longer-term security to the organizations.

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“I find that sometimes when an entity gets a large chunk of money, they don’t use it as wisely as they might if they got money each year. Spreading the money across a number of years and making it last as long as possible is the more prudent way,” Conlee said.

Conlee became aware of the Community Foundation soon after it was founded and felt the organization’s local ties and non-profit efforts were best for handling her estate.

“I thought that might be a good way to administer my estate as opposed to setting up a separate trust,” Conlee said.

However, she’s not anxious to make use of the Community Foundation’s expertise.

“I’m hoping it won’t happen for a long time,” she said with a smile.