Girls on the Run of Central Illinois is in it for the long run. With an eye toward its future health, the organization recently established the Girls on the Run of Central Illinois Fund through the Community Foundation.

“Girls on the Run became interested in establishing a fund around the time of our 15th anniversary,” Executive Director Jennifer Sublett said. “As we considered how to celebrate both the history and future of the organization, we knew we wanted to take steps to ensure the long-term sustainability of the program.”
The organization partners with local schools and community sites to provide afterschool programming, culminating in a 5K run for participants. The program’s trained coaches lead small teams at area schools. Since its establishment in 2004, more than 10,000 local families have participated.

“Girls on the Run empowers young girls to become strong women,” Sublett said. “Every girl is inherently full of power and potential. By knowing they are the leaders of their lives, these are the girls who will change the world.

“Girls on the Run lessons teach girls things like putting yourself in someone else’s shoes to develop empathy for their experiences, valuing the worth of every member of the team, and making choices that create a better world.”

The organization will strive to grow the Fund so that it can be utilized to provide opportunities for even more youth in the Springfield area. The board of directors for Girls on the Run, along with its finance committee, collaborates with the Community Foundation to monitor the fund.

“Our desire for this Fund is to provide another avenue for current and future donors to contribute to our organization. Over time, the Fund can provide a revenue stream for Girls on the Run, which will help us serve all girls, regardless of their family’s financial situation,” Sublett said.

When Girls on the Run decided to establish the Fund, it was an easy decision to partner with the Community Foundation.

“Girls on the Run has worked with the Community Foundation on previous projects such as grants and college scholarships. It’s a natural partnership for our organization to work with another local nonprofit that is focused on helping others,” Sublett said.

To learn more about organization endowment funds or to donate to the Girls on the Run of Central Illinois Fund, please visit CFLL.org or call the Community Foundation at 217-789-4431.