In 43 too short years, Patrick Haven left a treasure trove of memories for those that knew and loved him. Those closest to him found a way to create a legacy from those memories by beginning the Patrick W. Haven Family Fund through the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln.

"Patrick was an outgoing individual. He loved athletics. He was very active in church, sang in the church choir. He loved music," said Patrick’s father George Haven, who along with his wife Mary Jo established the fund.

Patrick passed away on Aug. 10, 2010. George and Mary Jo Haven will oversee the donor-advised fund with assistance from Patrick’s wife, Roseann, and son, Graham.

“They are fully aware of it. We think it’s a good way of getting (Graham) started in sharing," George Haven said. "They will be involved and after we are gone this will be something that they can remember him with."

The fund will focus on educational activities, especially those involving music or fine arts.

“We haven’t zeroed in on what we are going to do but it will probably be something like if we learn of a kid that can’t afford to go to a summer camp or something like that, we will be able to send them," George Haven said. “It could also go into fine arts area. ... Anything we can do to help kids."

Haven was active performing musically, including being a member of the Ambassadors of Harmony based in Missouri. The group featured between 150-170 members. With Haven as part of the chorus, the Ambassadors captured the Gold Medal at the International Chorus Championships in 2009 and silver medals in 2008 and 2007.

“He fell in love with that group and the comraderie of it," George Haven said.
Haven, the child of two educators, also found his niche in education. He taught in the alternative education department at Feitshans School in Springfield.

“He was very kid oriented,” George Haven said. “He really was in tune with those kids. He treated them as equals. They knew the guidelines. They knew the rules. He had success with them.”

For more information on donor-advised funds or to donate to the Haven Family Fund, please contact the Community Foundation.