**Appleton Brings Practical Philanthropy**

Practicality and philanthropy can go hand in hand. Helen Appleton has combined both with the creation of the Helen and Thomas Appleton Family Fund through the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln.

The Fund’s creation allows the Appletons to continue supporting preferred charities while also reaping the tax benefits from donating appreciated stocks and working with the Community Foundation.

Helen became familiar with the Community Foundation’s work by serving on Women for Women’s grant committee. Tom became familiar with the Community Foundation when he worked with Judy Stephens as a founding board member for the Hoogland Center of the Arts.

“I would read about how well the funds did and how they grew. They would grow and then you could keep giving more,” Helen Appleton said. “I liked that.”

The Appletons have been active philanthropically for decades. The longtime-area residents are heavily involved in supporting efforts by Grace Lutheran Church, Augustana College, the Muni Opera, and other charities. The establishment of the Fund will enable the Appletons to continue these efforts as the Fund is a donor-advised fund.

“I was giving money to charities before, so I decided to do it this way,” Appleton said. “I was very happy with what I’ve read about the Foundation and the growth of the funds.”

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The Appletons are looking forward to next year and a new round of giving opportunities.

“This was my trial year to see how it goes,” Appleton said. “I'm just waiting until January.”