A legacy of giving can span generations, enhancing countless lives during the process. The **Henry Bunn Memorial Fund** provides a shining example of this type of legacy creation.

For the past seven decades, the Fund has provided scholarships for Sangamon County high school students of high academic scholarship and financial need wanting to continue their education in college. It was established in 1953 by Alice E. Bunn in memory of her brother Henry Bunn, who passed away 80 years ago in December of 1934.

"While Henry was before my time, I did know my Great Aunt Alice, and I think she would be pleased to know her gift continues and has helped hundreds of students achieve their college dreams," said Jacob Bunn IV, who is the great-great nephew of Alice and Henry Bunn and was one of three trustees of the Fund.

The Fund’s trustees transferred the Fund from a private foundation held at J.P. Morgan Chase to the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln in 2014. There can be many advantages to converting a private foundation to a fund at the Community Foundation, especially if a donor wishes to keep decision making local in perpetuity.

"In looking to the future of the Henry Bunn Scholarship, the trustees wanted to preserve the intent of the trust, gain greater exposure and grow the assets," said Bunn. "In 2014 the trustees, Melinda S. Robinson, George W. Haven and I, voted unanimously to make the Community Foundation the new home for the Henry Bunn Memorial Fund."
Fund. We believe the Community Foundation shares our vision and has the infrastructure in place to continue helping students well into the future.”

The scholarship recipients can strive to have the impact Henry Bunn had during his distinguished life in Sangamon County. He was born in Springfield in 1858 and attended the Stuart School in Springfield before trekking east and attending college preparatory school and more than two years at Yale University. He returned to Sangamon County to help his father in the banking business following the “Panic of 1873.” Bunn spent the next 20 years helping guide Marine Bank, formerly known as J. Bunn Bank. He left banking to serve in the Spanish American War, where he helped organize an Illinois regiment and became an officer.

After the war he joined the Illinois Watch Company, serving as Vice President or President from 1899-1927. It was at the watch company that Henry and his brother Jacob helped establish the Sangamo Electric Company and developed the Gutmann Induction Watt-hour Meter, which helped start the United States’ meter industry. Henry spent the last several years of his life living on the East Coast before returning to Springfield in the final months before his death in 1934.

Per Alice Bunn’s wishes, the Fund was developed by her estate following her death. The two siblings were very close, living together the final few months of Henry’s life. The pair loved to ride horses together, and Alice described her brother as “quiet and shy” but with a “dapper” way of dressing.

Alice and Henry were two of seven children of Jacob and Elizabeth Ferguson Bunn. Henry was the second son, while Alice was the youngest sibling. Alice lived many years on South Sixth Street in Springfield and was very well-read, counting among her close friends poet Vachal Lindsey. Neither Alice nor Henry married, but their generosity has been felt by youth in Sangamon County.

“For Melinda, George and I, this transfer is the perfect fit and we are confident about this new direction and the long-term security of the Fund,” Bunn said. “I think Henry and Alice would be very pleased.”