Rob Patino and his family wanted to leave a legacy in memory of his younger sister. The Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln provided the perfect avenue. The connection was recently completed when Patino established the **Jamie Patino Scholarship Fund** through the Community Foundation.

“It was a goal of ours to extend her legacy,” Rob Patino said. “The scholarship completes that goal.”

The scholarship will be given yearly to a student from Springfield Southeast High School who plans on attending college to pursue a degree in math, science, engineering or related field. It is the first scholarship fund through the Community Foundation intended solely for a Southeast High School student. Jamie Patino graduated from Southeast in 2002. She passed away that summer at the age of 18.

“She was a very outgoing, very friendly person,” Rob Patino said. “She was very intelligent, just always wanted to give. This is a way of continuing that.”

Jamie Patino was planning on attending the University of Missouri to pursue an engineering degree. Her sisters, Sonya and Nicole, and brother, Rob, all have engineering degrees. The scholarship was funded by donations from family and friends.

“We recognize a path to securing a good job is having a background in science or math,” said Rob Patino, who works as a patent attorney in Springfield. “It’s something to encourage. I wouldn’t be able to do what I do without a science degree.”

Patino was directed to the Community Foundation after contacting a foundation in the Peoria area. He was searching for a way to help navigate the intricacies of trusts.

“I was looking into establishing a trust, it seemed to be pretty laborious,” Patino said. “When I found the Community Foundation, it seemed to be an easy way to take care of the taxes and the endowment. It definitely makes it a lot easier.”

The family is excited that the scholarship fund is in place and ready to begin helping Southeast High School students.

“We’re looking forward to giving a scholarship.” Patino said. “It’s been four years since she passed. It’s been a longtime coming.”