Bruce Sommer spent the past decade managing his own philanthropic fund. Recently, he decided it was time for a change, and he found the partner for that movement in the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln.

The partnership has resulted in the moving of Sommer’s established Kindling Fund into the donor-advised funds managed by the Community Foundation.

“I thought they could do a better job of it than I could do on my own,” Sommer said. “I got bogged down on the administrative side, and I wanted to raise money and give away money instead of focusing on management.”

The fund was established in part to “encourage social entrepreneurship, support (entrepreneurs) with their own ideas and how to contribute to societal change,” Sommer said.

A graduate of Sacred Heart Griffin High School, Sommer has spent the past 16 years splitting his time between Springfield and New Hampshire. He teaches at the University of New Hampshire, focusing on entrepreneurship and venture capitalism. However, he expects to be spending more time in his hometown which also helped spur the fund’s move to the Community Foundation.

“Now I want to bring it home and put it more in the area,” said Sommer, who completed his undergraduate degree at Illinois Wesleyan in 1992 before moving to New Hampshire.

The efforts of the Community Foundation benefitting the community were another strong selling point to Sommer bringing his fund into the fold. “What I’m excited about is the contribution it can make on all the other funds. It’s a collection of funds with varied focus,” Sommer said. “I like the (Community Foundation) a lot. I want to promote it and make it a way to understand the needs of the community.”

While his personal philanthropic efforts focus on environmental change, social justice and education, Sommer is open to a wide variety of social entrepreneurship from his fund recipients.