Leon Tryon gave and gave and gave some more. He didn’t need attention or accolades for it. He just did it. That giving spirit inspired his family to recently establish the Leon Tryon Memorial Fund through the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln.

“He was a very, very giving person. He gave when no one was looking all the time,” said Doug Skinner, Tryon’s son-in-law. “He gave to so many people and he never made it known to anyone.”

Tryon passed away March 21, 2014. The family knew he had a giving spirit, but with each person who went to the memorial service relaying stories of what he had done for them, the family learned more about how giving the farmer from the Morrisonville area was to his friends and neighbors. Skinner, his wife Kari and mother-in-law Linda established the Fund prior to the memorial, allowing mourners to give to the Fund.

“(My wife and mother-in-law) were thankful something was going to be there for an ongoing tribute to him,” Doug Skinner said. “I wanted his style of giving and his generosity to carry on.”

The Fund will focus on continuing Tryon’s work with VisionWay Christian School in Taylorville. The school holds classes for pre-K through high school students. Tryon helped found the school and
was extremely active in the Taylorville Christian Church, serving as an elder. During his time at the church, he advised a multitude of ministers that passed through the Taylorville area throughout the years. “Young ministers, senior ministers, he helped all of them and took time to mentor them,” Tryon said.

The family may choose to use the fund to benefit other entities as time passes. That flexibility and logistical expertise was part of the allure of establishing the fund through the Community Foundation.

“We like the way it is flexible and tax deductible for people who want to give,” Skinner said. “...I want it to be professionally managed and administered. I want it to be something we can call on long-term. (The Community Foundation) is a great spot for establishing something professional.”