Giving back to the community is a tradition for Lisa Stone.

A tradition that the Community Foundation will help her and her family continue for the foreseeable future. Through the Community Foundation, Stone and her husband, Dr. Stephen Stone, have established the **Lisa and Stephen Stone Family Fund**, which will provide money to area nonprofit groups.

“I start with the premise that both of us have had a far better life than we ever envisioned and we feel an obligation to give back to the community that gave us that life,” Lisa Stone said. “This encompasses everything that I believe in. It has the potential to help so many different goals after I’m gone and it gives me the pleasure of seeing the work it can do now.”

The Stone Fund is a donor-advised fund and it will not benefit one charity, but a multitude of nonprofit organizations with an emphasis on those providing food and shelter to the less fortunate. But it will not only be a fund that helps specific events but it may help sponsor a Springfield area conference focused on providing nonprofit organizations with information on fundraising.

For the Stones, the creation of the fund follows a lifelong path of philanthropy. Stephen and Lisa Stone have served on several community organization boards and Lisa Stone has served as a member of the Community Foundation Board of Directors.

“My tradition teaches me that I may not be able to fix everything but it doesn’t mean you shouldn’t fix what you can,” Stone said.

Lisa and Stephen Stone currently manage the fund with it eventually being turned over to their three children, Jason, Erica and Chip. “I used to worry that my children were the victims of our time away from home volunteering. Now they are very comfortable that we are doing this kind of donation in our lifetime,” Stone said.

The creation of this fund also appealed to Stone because it didn’t need an exorbitant amount of money to be created.

“I can start small. I don’t have to be Rockefeller,” Stone said. “Unlike the Fidelity Gift Fund, it’s locally managed. After we’re gone, our local board members will understand the needs of the community.”