Giving back has long been part of Mike and Marie Giacomelli’s life in Springfield. Focusing that giving spirit led the couple to the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln where they have established the Mike & Marie Giacomelli Family Fund.

“We have regularly donated to various worthy organizations in response to a growing number and variety of appeals during our working years,” Marie Giacomelli said. “Now, in retirement, we find such a random approach lacks the focus we want for our future giving. Not to say we will no longer be benefactors of those organizations we’ve supported in the past; but, via a donor-advised fund, we look forward to better organizing and targeting our giving.”

The Giacomellis have lived in Springfield since 1983. Through Mike’s work with the Illinois State Police and her work with Robert Morris University, they became familiar with charitable organizations throughout the community.

“Giving back to the community has been an integral part of our lives and the respective professions we chose,” Giacomelli said. “Even as high school teenagers we were both involved in student clubs that supported the common good through volunteerism and fundraising.”
Marie became more knowledgable about the Community Foundation’s efforts during tenures on education-related committees and other activities.

“We are impressed by how the Community Foundation has enjoyed increased visibility and its growth over the past several years,” Giacomelli said.

By establishing a donor-advised fund, the Giacomellis will have flexibility in determining what organizations or activities to support. The couple will continue to focus on areas they have long ties to, but also will have the ability to branch out if they so desire.

“Since we have long been committed to supporting education, veterans’ causes, senior services, and special needs children in our giving, those areas will continue to be our priority because each has affected us in such meaningful ways. As our experience with the Community Foundation and our Fund grows, we will decide whether or not to broaden our focus areas,” Giacomelli said.