An excellent history is the groundwork for what one local agency hopes is a secure future.

The Prairie Center Against Sexual Assault (PCASA) recently utilized its historical knowledge of the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln to establish a fund with the Community Foundation. PCASA has been a grantee recipient from the Community Foundation and understands the Foundation’s financial track record in working with local funds.

“We’re hoping it’s a good way to grow some money. They have a very good track record for investments,” PCASA Executive Director Catherine Walters said. “The idea was that we would set up something that would secure our future.”

PCASA provides free and confidential counseling and medical and court advocacy to victims of sexual assault and sexual abuse. The center operates a 24-hour hotline, seven-days-a-week, 365-days-a-year. The services can begin at an emergency room or years after the assault. The center also provides sexual assault prevention education programs for children of all ages.

The fund, named the Prairie Center Against Sexual Assault Endowment Fund, will be used for a variety of PCASA programs, but its focus will be on the center’s children’s programming. The children’s program includes counseling, advocacy and prevention education.

“We hope to continue to grow our program for children,” Walters said. Prairie Center became aware of the Community Foundation’s work from the opposite end of the spectrum, as a grant recipient. For the past four years, the center’s Camp “No-It” program received a grant from the Community Foundation. The interactions left an indelible impression.

“Every year we’ve received it they have been so thankful for us applying,” Walters said. “You don’t get that very much from funders. They have been so thankful. They are so professional.”

PCASA will look to build the fund’s balance through donations. The center plans one direct mailing campaign to contribute directly to the fund. The campaign will likely take place prior to April, which serves as Sexual Assault Awareness Month.