Opportunity presented itself and Bob Colantino ushered it through the door. The Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln provided the opportunity for a more formalized approach to the Colantinos' philanthropic efforts and Bob and his wife, Nancy, made use of it by establishing the **Robert & Nancy Colantino Family Charitable Fund**.

“Society creates an opportunity for people; not all people see opportunity, and not all that see it, take it,” the 69-year-old Colantino said. “One way of sharing success is to give back and help others see their opportunity. It’s very important. We wanted to give back to the community. The community has been very good to our family. We wanted to give back in a systematic and organized way. The Community Foundation is an excellent vehicle to do that.”

The planning process extends to the involvement of Colantino’s children, Emily, Alison and Drew. The parents expect the children to all participate in the fund and expand their roles in later years. “This is a family commitment,” Colantino said. “We wanted to establish a vehicle for them to make it easy for them when they are positioned to do that.” The plan is long-term as the three children have either just started careers, as in Emily’s case as an attorney in Chicago, or are still in post-graduate studies as in Alison’s and Drew’s status. The ability to establish a giving plan was an important lesson to convey to the children.

“There is so much competition out there, so many interests for your money. Sometimes you forget that you need to give back a percentage every year,” Colantino said. “If you have a formal strategy for kids to give back, set up for them, then it’s a reminder of that message and it becomes an equal competitor with other things for their dollars.”

The fund is donor-advised allowing diversity in giving. However, the family will likely focus on educational efforts. “I’m a firm believer in education,” said Colantino, who is an oral surgeon. “If you teach a person how to fish, they can sustain themselves.”