There isn’t a time limit. There isn’t a due date. Time is on the Fund’s side.

That ability to let a fund mature and grow without pressure to make hasty decisions is what helped lead Tom and Peggy Ryder to establish the **Ryder Family Fund** through the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln.

“At this point we are just starting. We can make contributions to the Fund and receive the tax benefits and allow it to grow without having to decide where it will go,” Tom Ryder said. “That’s a great thing to start now.”

The Fund will be a donor-advised fund, which means the family can pick and choose what areas to focus on each year. The areas of interest do not have to be stagnant each year. Establishment of a donor-advised fund also can be created with a small amount that will then grow into a larger fund from which distributions may be made.

“I was pleased you can start modestly,” Ryder said. “We started modestly, continue to work at it, and it grows year after year.”
The Fund could also become a family affair down the road. The Ryders’ sons Josh and Tim and their spouses Allyn and Rebecca along with the grandchildren might join in discussions about how to best utilize the Fund after it grows.

“That’s great if it becomes a family fund,” Ryder said. “It’s going to take some time.”

The Ryders are uncertain what focus the Fund will zero in on. The family has lived in Springfield the past ten years and is involved in several philanthropic efforts. The involvement in the community helped the Ryders become aware of the work of the Community Foundation. Peggy Ryder is active in the Women for Women giving circle, and the family is acquainted with several other families who have worked with the Community Foundation.

“The interesting part of the Community Foundation is that it comes at us from some different approaches. Peggy is on the steering committee of Women for Women, several board members are friends of mine. All of those were pieces that fit together in a puzzle to bring us to this point today,” Tom Ryder said.