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Fit is important.

For the Sangamon County Historical Society, that means finding community partners that can help the organization thrive, even during trying times. Most recently, the Community Foundation has become one of those key partners.

“We decided to set up the Sangamon County Historical Society Fund at the Community Foundation for a variety of reasons,” said Sangamon County Historical Society President Mary Alice Davis. “The Community Foundation is helping nonprofits create permanent resources, and we wanted to be a part of that.”

The Community Foundation’s track record for successfully handling funds geared toward preserving an organization’s ability to thrive in a turbulent financial market was especially appealing to the Historical Society.

“We understand their money management was in line with our thinking,” said Historical Society Treasurer Gerald Smith. “We live off the income and don’t mess with the principal, and that is something the Community Foundation is quite adept at. Their reputation is good and that’s important.”

By establishing an organization fund, the Historical Society is free to focus on its mission while the Community Foundation handles all of the administrative and investment responsibilities.

“We need to preserve our history for the next generation so they are able to have a good understanding of what our community is about,” Davis said.
The Historical Society was established in 1961. Its goal remains to preserve the past while educating residents and tourists on the living history around them every day in this historically significant community.

The Historical Society will utilize its Fund to help with ongoing operations and programs, including its monthly meetings at the Lincoln Library in Springfield. The meetings take place from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month, and guest speakers are brought in to discuss a variety of topics related to Sangamon County’s history.

The Historical Society has also reestablished the walk at Oak Ridge Cemetery. The event will take place in October and is popular with residents and tourists. In addition, the Historical Society has teamed up with the Pleasant Plains Historical Society to work on the restoration of Clayville.

The fit between the Historical Society and Community Foundation will help enable these events to continue to provide historical knowledge to our community.