The symphony will play on and on and on. The Sangamon Valley Youth Symphony is striving to ensure that for area youth and to help reach that goal; the organization established the Sangamon Valley Youth Symphony Endowment through the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln.

“We decided to start something for the future,” Music Conductor Richard Haglund said. “You have to plant a seed and watch it grow.”

The idea for the endowment began more than two years ago. Haglund was the catalyst, beginning the fund in memoriam of his father, Arthur Haglund. Several parents and board members added to the fund to reach the $5,000 start up level. The plan is to allow the fund to grow substantially before using it on symphony projects. However, the endowment is also expected to boost the organization’s profile.

“Hopefully, the endowment will give us more exposure for benefactors in the community and get our name out there instead of just our small circle of parents,” Haglund said.

SVYS currently has three top orchestras, with 104 members ranging in age from 2nd grade through freshman in college. The organization also is in the process of organizing several “Starter String” programs in area grade schools, including one established at Farmingdale Elementary School in Pleasant Plains.

“We’re the only symphonic program in the area,” Haglund said. “The age range of the kids is diverse; the makeup of the kids is diverse.”

The organization is more than 20 years old, but the endowment is also part of a bigger organization change taking place.

“We’ve become a lot more professional about the structure of the organization,” Haglund said.