The benefits from the recently established Springfield Tracy Fund will be two-fold. Organizations will benefit from the philanthropic effort, but so will the children of Don and Wanda Tracy.

“You learn so much, you learn about community needs and charitable needs, how those needs are being met,” Don Tracy said. “You learn a lot about life. It’s just a great developmental tool.”

Tracy recently established the working tool with the creation of the fund through the Community Foundation. The Tracy’s have four children, Steven, Liz, Jaclyn and Tori, ranging in age from 22-15.

“They are certainly old enough to be involved,” Tracy said.

The children will be heavily involved as each will be responsible for making a presentation on the organization he/she would like to receive a grant.

“I'm going to treat it like a business meeting,” Tracy said. “We'll have everyone prepare a list of charitable organizations and present on why they should get the grant. We'll engage in group deliberations.”

Don Tracy learned the importance of philanthropic work through his parents, Robert and Dorothy, who established the Tracy Family Foundation in Mt. Sterling. The decision to establish this fund was in Tracy’s thoughts for the past several years. His confidence in the Community Foundation helped make the thoughts a reality.

“I've been thinking about it a long time,” Tracy said. “I love the work that Community Foundation Executive Director John Stremsterfer and the board are doing with the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln.”

The grants will probably focus on helping youth and promoting education, but there isn’t a mandate for the decision to be limited to those areas. Tracy doesn’t expect to disburse a grant until 2008.