The Springfield Public Schools Foundation was searching for a way to become better known in the community it serves. The Community Foundation is the marketing springboard it chose.

The partnership began with the creation of the **Springfield Public Schools Foundation Endowment Fund** through the Community Foundation.

“We’re very excited. The entire board looks at it as an opportunity to get our foundation’s name out to more people and to be part of the Community Foundation,” Springfield Public Schools Foundation then Board President Karen Munoz said. The fund will be directed by the Public Schools Foundation toward projects that support schools throughout District 186.

“(Community Foundation Executive Director John Stremsterfer) is out there every day talking to people who want to make donations,” Munoz said. “If they want to make a donation toward education, he can tell them about us. We look at it as a win, win situation.”

The Public Schools Foundation was initiated in 1981 following the defeat of a local school referendum. Grants are awarded throughout the district with any public school eligible to receive one.

“Every school that is part of District 186 benefits from Foundation fundraising,” Munoz said. “It’s a way we can provide monies in ways that tax dollars can’t.”

The Public Schools Foundation would like to create an endowment large enough that the interest from the endowment would help fund new grants. Many of the teacher grant awards provide money to do creative and imaginative activities for the students.