Art provided a respite for David Sumner. The quiet therapy delivered by a paintbrush and watercolors was a necessity in the surgeon’s battle with Parkinson’s disease. Martha Sumner witnessed the power of art during her husband’s efforts to fight back the disease.

“My appreciation of what the arts can do really increased when I saw what they did for him,” Martha Sumner said. “Watercolors were his greatest therapy. He had great fun with it. Parkinson’s is so limiting physically. Mentally he was fine. Physically he was limited, but he could sit and do watercolors for hours.”

Sumner will work to make sure the arts remain a vital part of the Springfield community with the establishment of the **Sumner Family Fund**, a donor-advised fund through the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln.

“I think the arts are very impressive in Springfield,” said Sumner, whose work in the arts community includes being a past president of the Prairie Arts Alliance. “These are difficult times for funding for most arts organizations in the area.”

Sumner believes in the mission of the Community Foundation and the flexibility of giving back through a donor-advised fund. Over the years, she has worked with a
variety of organizations, including Contact Ministries, Helping Hands and Memorial Health Systems, and she looks forward to supporting these charitable causes and others long into the future.

“I set up our Fund at the Community Foundation, because I believe in what the organization is doing,” Sumner said. “The Community Foundation is a place to help families like mine give back to the issues we care about the most.”