Unrestricted funds allow the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln to reach those organizations that are in the greatest need each year that may otherwise go unserved.

The Community Foundation recently had a pair of unrestricted funds established in the Stutz Family Fund and the John Dale and Ronee C. Kennedy Fund. Both funds provide much needed giving flexibility to fill gaps in the area’s philanthropic landscape.

“We want to make sure, if there are needs to be met, we could help use some of our funds to help improve the community,” Dr. Alan Stutz said. “We have interest in multiple things and didn’t want to pigeonhole it to one thing. The Community Foundation can be more creative.”

The Stutz’s had previously established giving plans for a variety of specific interests including academic institutions. However, the retirees, who have lived in Springfield since 1972, know there are agencies and issues that need attention that they may not know about or have access to the information. The Community Foundation’s network of giving will provide insight previously unknown.

“(The Community Foundation) knows what the needs are in our community,” Marty Stutz said.

Both the Stutz and Kennedy families have a long history of planning their estates, and the Community Foundation’s experience with properly handling unrestricted funds helped ease any concerns they had.
“It gives us confidence that whatever we leave will be spent properly, it will be vetted thoroughly by the Community Foundation,” John Dale Kennedy said. “Overall, we trust that they will make good decisions on behalf of the community.”

“We’ve been thinking for several years about giving to the Community Foundation,” Dr. Alan Stutz said. “There was a desire for us to start a process to help the community in several areas.”

The Kennedy’s Fund will be established as an estate gift. Making the gift unrestricted enables the Fund’s emphasis to change with whatever new needs there are when the time comes for money to be allotted.

“We’ve made several modifications over the years,” Kennedy said. “This seems to be the easiest way of handling decisions. ... This seems to be a convenient way to make it work.”