

# Stutz Family Meeting Community Needs Where They Are

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Throughout the years, Alan and Marty Stutz gave to familiar entities – their church, the college they attended together, and the Illinois Symphony Orchestra, where Alan was a board member for more than 30 years.

But after moving to Springfield in 1972, they wanted to give back to something else that had given so much to them – their community. Whether it was a school system that prepared their children for their careers or colleagues in the medical field that made work fulfilling and enjoyable, they wanted to keep their community strong.

But a community is ever-evolving, as new challenges arise with each new generation. So in thinking of ways to give back, they knew of a passion their friends Judy and Harvey Stephens had in the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln. Alan and Marty decided to set up an unrestricted fund, which addresses needs in the community as they change over time.

As involved as Alan and Marty are in the community, there's only so much time in the day to learn about the pressing issues of central Illinois.



*Alan & Marty Stutz*

"The board and staff at the Community Foundation know the specific needs that arise," Alan said. "There are projects that come up that no one is supporting and they would be where we could put our money. The Foundation would have more of a finger on the needs of individual organizations than we would."

There are different types of funds available through the Community Foundation to meet donors where they are. A field of interest fund focuses on issue areas such as education, health care or the arts. A donor-advised fund lets donors make recommendations of where they would like to see grants go on an ongoing basis. Designated funds create endowments for specific nonprofit organizations.

An unrestricted fund offers a great opportunity to make a long-term impact. It's designed to address needs within a community as they change over time. Since its scope allows for any type of issue area, it can have an impact on issues not yet imagined.

The Stutzes have been on the cutting edge since moving to Springfield. Alan was the first radiation oncologist in the state capital when moving here in 1972 and has stayed ever since. Now retired, he's volunteered at the Old State Capital for the past five years, every week guiding tours to children and adults who come from around the world.

That sense of giving back has been with Alan since college, when he received a scholarship to go to college, and later on for medical school.

"Marty and I do individual giving – our three biggest individual gifts are to church, Beloit College and to the symphony," Alan said. "We do that on our own, but we wanted to do something for the community at large, since we had raised our family here and I had been here my whole professional career."

With the Stutz Family Fund, they'll be able to impact lives for the most pressing issues now and those facing citizens 25, 50 and even 100 years from now.

"I think responsible citizenship means that you don't just think of yourself," Alan said. "There are many places that need help to accomplish their goals."

*If you're interested in learning more about unrestricted funds, please contact the Community Foundation at 217.789.4431 or visit us at [CFL.org](http://CFL.org).*