A new endowment fund has been established for the benefit of Hillsdale High School baseball, thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor couple, along with family and friends of 2001 HHS graduate, Mark Grassman.

Grassman died unexpectedly in February, at age 36, of a massive heart attack.

Jim Cutright, executive director of the Ashland County Community Foundation, met with Mark’s parents, Jeff and Kathy Grassman, recently to share the news that a couple with close ties to the Hillsdale community, had offered to provide a $10,000 gift to establish a permanent endowment fund at ACCF in Mark’s memory, with the type of fund created to be at the family’s discretion.

“With all the negativity in the world, it is reassuring to know there are caring people like this that makes the world a better place. We appreciate this gift from the bottom of our hearts,” Grassman’s parents said.

The Grassmans decided that a fitting tribute to Mark would be a fund that could supplement the needs of the Hillsdale baseball program, since that sport was their son’s passion. Mark was a multi-sport athlete, excelling at golf, as well as being part of the 2001 HHS basketball team with a perfect regular season record, that was inducted into the Ashland County Sports Hall of Fame in 2018. After his record-setting, award-winning career at HHS, he played slow-pitch softball.

“This is just another amazing example of the type of people that live in our community on both sides of the philanthropic exchange” Cutright said, adding that number of additional contributions to the Grassman fund had already be made.