Anthony and Margaret Mary Kohlrus raised seven children in Springfield. Those children kept them busy, but it didn't keep them from giving back to the community where they lived.

The lesson of giving back is one the Kohlrus children kept with them and have tried to live by as adults. The latest step in that legacy is the establishment of the 2100 Fund through the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln (formerly the Sangamon County Community Foundation). The Fund is named after the family's childhood home, 2100 North 22nd Street.

“We wanted to do something to honor our parents,” Claire Call said. “Our parents raised us to volunteer and do charitable things. It’s something we could do to honor them.”

Call joined with her five siblings who still call Springfield home, Chris, Tom, Karl, Kurt and Marianne Stremsterfer, to build the fund with $1,000 donation each. They will all add to the fund by continuing with an annual contribution.

“There are a lot of things people can do to give back. This is small and it doesn’t seem like a lot, but you have to start somewhere,” Chris Kohlrus said. “I feel blessed to be able to do this.”

The family has remained close into adulthood and the idea of doing something together was part of the joy in establishing the fund.

“It’s a fun group,” Call said. “We’ve always gotten along. We thought it sounded great.”

It also provides another example that the siblings hope to pass down to their children, who are now young adults.

“You’re a product of your environment. What you see environmentally molds your character,” Chris Kohlrus said. “I watched all the things my parents did, whether it was church or my mom worked with UNICEF, and they raised all of us. We’re so busy now, but we need to set aside time when we get a shot at giving back.”

The decision making process for what organizations receive a grant each year will also be a family affair, as the siblings and their spouses will take turns deciding where a grant will be distributed.

“My mother used to say, ‘You get 10 fold back what you give.’ She was so right.” Call said.

And she would be proud that her children listened.