In life, the Marx family was a bedrock of stability on the north end of Springfield. The family occupied the same 8th Street home for decades. The five sisters found jobs in town and stayed at them. They found St. Joseph’s Parish and worshipped there. They found causes they believed in and supported them.

They did it without fanfare. They did it for almost a century and that support hasn’t stopped, since the establishment of the **John and Louisa Marx Family Endowment Fund** through the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln. The fund is named in honor of Edna’s parents.

“They were humble self-effacing people,” said friend and attorney Fred Hoffmann.

Edna Marx was the last remaining member of her family prior to her passing away on May 9, 2011, at the age of 96. Marx and her sisters, Ruth, Ada, Mary Jane and Helen, never married and lived together in their childhood home for many years. Edna Marx, who was employed at Marine Bank for almost 30 years, worked with Hoffmann of Sorling, Northrup, Hanna, Cullen & Cochran law office to set up the fund. Helen and Ruth worked at Sorling Law Office for several years.

“Edna was a good soul,” Hoffmann said. “It’s not surprising she would be thinking of friends and charity.”

The fund will be used to support St. Joseph’s Parish, Catholic Charities and the Salvation Army. The advantage of an endowment fund is the ability to establish a concrete giving plan for the future. “Those were the things that meant the most to her,” Hoffmann said. “Those were the central parts of her character.”

The Parish may utilize the proceeds from the fund in a variety of ways depending on their needs. “You could tell she had a great love for this parish,” Rev. Monsignor Thomas Paul Holinga said. “She wanted to make sure (the fund) would help things important to her and her family.”