



## **EDWARDSBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION**

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**Contact:**

**The Rev. Scott Scheel**

**The Edwardsburg Food Pantry**

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### **SEEDS OF GRATITUDE FUND ESTABLISHED**

EDWARDSBURG-- A former Edwardsburg resident whose family was on the receiving end of goodwill from the Edwardsburg community during her childhood has established a fund in her parents' honor to benefit students in the local schools.

An endowment of \$5,000 has been made by Gayle Stevens Sparks of Kalamazoo, Michigan, in honor of her parents, the late John and Agnes Stevens, to be used for the needs of students enrolled in the Edwardsburg Public Schools. The fund is entitled Seeds of Gratitude and is to be used at the rate of \$500 per school year.

The fund is a cooperative project of the Edwardsburg Food Pantry (The Edwardsburg Emergency Fund), the Edwardsburg Public Schools, and the Edwardsburg Public Schools Foundation, which will provide exposure for the project through its publications, events, and activities.

The Stevens family lived in Edwardsburg for many years and the fund is being established as a gift of gratitude to the community. Ms. Sparks noted that many times her family was on the receiving end of generosity and love provided by the residents.

“With this in mind, it is my hope that others will, in times of need, receive ‘seeds of gratitude.’ Perhaps in time, they too will find it possible to sow seeds of gratitude in their own ways. In doing so, each tiny seed will be the beginning of its own beautiful garden,” she said.

Students with specific needs will be identified by the school district. Needs could include, but are not limited to, warm winter clothing, shoes, and school supplies. All gifts will remain anonymous.

Ms. Sparks has indicated that she “would be honored if others felt led to contribute to the fund so that ‘seeds of gratitude’ can be sown on an ongoing basis long after the original donation was given. In this way, children in the Edwardsburg community can be nurtured and blessed for years to come,” she said.

Donations can be made to the Seeds of Gratitude Fund in care of the Edwardsburg Food Pantry, Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church, 24832 U.S. 12, Edwardsburg, MI 49112.

[www.edwardsburgpublicschoolsfoundation.org](http://www.edwardsburgpublicschoolsfoundation.org)

*“....create community investment and thus provide excellence of education.”*