

NENG & BAO XIONG VOLVO SCHOLARSHIP FUND



A component fund of the

BACKGROUND

When Bao and Neng Xiong arrived in Wausau from Laos in 1991, they were not formally educated and spoke little English, but they were determined to build a good life in their new home for their family. To help support her family and acclimate herself in her new homeland, Bao attended language classes, earned her GED, became a licensed childcare provider, and dedicated herself to helping new refugees as they arrived in Wausau. Now, in addition to running an in-home daycare and raising six children, Bao teaches cultural dance and provides free tax preparation and interpretation services to Hmong families.



Neng and Bao Xiong

Bao and Neng find their strength in these words from Psalms 117:2, “For his merciful kindness is great toward us: and the truth of the Lord endures forever. Praise ye the Lord.”

Because of the extraordinary conscience, care, and character Bao demonstrated in her work on behalf of thousands of Hmong refugee women in Wausau, she was chosen as one of the top three finalists from over 2,000 nominations for the Volvo for Life Award – a nationwide search for everyday heroes. The award is designed to put Volvo’s values into action by inspiring people who make outstanding contributions to their communities. The distinguished panel of judges included Hank Aaron, Bill Bradley, Dr. Jane Goodall, Caroline Kennedy Schlossberg, Eunice Kennedy Shriver, Maya Lin, Paul Newman, and Dr. Sally Ride. Bao & Neng Xiong established a donor advised fund within the Community Foundation of North Central Wisconsin in June of 2003 with the proceeds from the award.

SCHOLARSHIP OBJECTIVE

The Bao & Neng Xiong Volvo Scholarship Fund was initiated in August of 2006 to annually award a scholarship to an able and deserving graduating high school senior from Wausau East, Wausau West, D.C. Everest, or Newman Catholic High Schools who demonstrates service to their community and tolerance of cultural differences. The student must plan to pursue an education at an accredited college or university in any field of study.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS AND ATTACHMENTS

- Apply online (see below)
- Application deadline is **February 15**
- Application must include:
 - Transcript of grades
 - List of extracurricular activities and community service (downloadable form online)
 - Two reference letters, from a teacher, counselor, employer, or community member

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

Students will be chosen for this scholarship based on the following criteria:

- Able and deserving graduating high school senior from the greater Wausau area to include but not be limited to Wausau East, Wausau West, D.C. Everest, or Newman Catholic High Schools;
- Who has demonstrated volunteerism and service to their community;
- And, demonstrates acceptance of cultural differences.
- The student must plan to pursue a college education in any field of study.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION PROCESS

Students from Wausau East, Wausau West, D.C. Everest, and Newman Catholic High Schools are encouraged to apply online by visiting the Community Foundation's website at www.cfoncw.org. Click the "Apply Now" / Grants Scholarships button on the top menu bar; then go to the left-side menu and click on "Scholarships"; you can then click on the "Apply Online" button anywhere you see it on the page to reach the online application portal and begin the registration and application process. If this is your first visit to the site, you will need to "Create an Account." If this is a return visit, enter your email address and password. Completed applications must be submitted by **February 15** to be considered by the Selection Committee. Information will be held in the confidence of the Selection Committee, the Community Foundation's board of directors, and its staff.

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ANNOUNCEMENT AND PAYMENT

The recipients will be announced at their high school senior awards ceremonies in the spring. The recipients will receive a congratulatory letter from the Community Foundation after the awards ceremony, including instructions for activating their scholarship funding.

Payment of scholarship funds will be made by the Community Foundation directly to the college or university the scholarship recipient is attending. The student must provide proof of registration to the Community Foundation office before payment will be initiated.

For more information, you can contact the Community Foundation office: