Purpose:
The Nancy B. Laabs Memorial Medical Scholarship Fund was established within the Community Foundation of North Central Wisconsin shortly after her death on October 24, 2004. The purpose of the fund is to provide scholarships for deserving and able students who are graduating from Medford Senior High School, and wish to attend an institution of higher learning to pursue a career in a medical field.

Background:
Born February 23, 1950 in Merrill, Wisconsin, Nancy (Downing) Laabs attended Merrill area elementary schools, and graduated from Merrill High School. She received an associate’s degree as a registered nurse from Northcentral Technical College, a bachelor’s degree in nursing from Marion College in Fond du Lac, and a master’s degree in health care administration from Carson Business College at the University of Minnesota.

Nancy was passionate for her profession – she loved nursing. She worked in the nursing field for over 30 years at Merrill, Medford, and Wausau Hospitals, as well as the University of Washington (Seattle) Hospital. In 1998, she took a position as Vice President of Operations at Memorial Health Center, in Medford, where she remained until the time of her death.

She was a member of St. Stephen’s United Church of Christ in Merrill, the Medford Rotary Club, and the American College of Health Care Executives. She enjoyed cooking, gardening, and spending time with her family. Nancy is survived by Myron, her husband of over 35 years, a daughter; Kristin, a son; Ted, and a grandson; Noah.

This scholarship fund was established to honor Nancy’s life work in the medical field.

Criteria for Selection:
To be considered for the Nancy B. Laabs Memorial Medical Scholarship, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Be a graduating senior from Medford High School;
- Planning to pursue a post-secondary education (within 6 months of graduation) in any medical field of study;
- Demonstrating a passion for medicine.
APPLICATION PROCESS:
Students interested in applying for this scholarship can apply through the Medford High School community scholarship application process. Contact the counseling office to confirm the application process. The Community Foundation will closely monitor the Scholarship Selection Committee and its selection process.

ANNOUNCEMENT AND PAYMENT:
Announcement of the scholarship recipient will be made at the Medford High School Senior Awards Ceremony in the spring. After the awards ceremony, the recipient will receive a congratulatory letter from the Community Foundation instructing them on how to receive their scholarship funding.

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

DONATIONS ACCEPTED:
Tax-deductible donations can be made to this fund at any time and in any amount. Make checks payable to the Community Foundation of North Central Wisconsin, with a notation on the memo line that the gift should be directed to the Nancy Laabs Scholarship Fund. The family will be notified of your thoughtful gift.

Questions or requests for further information can be directed to the Community Foundation office.