BACKGROUND:
Matt Paustian’s parents, Gloria and Bob, established the Matthew R. Paustian Engineering Scholarship Fund within the Community Foundation shortly after his death in 1990 with the thought that it will, in some small way, assist a deserving candidate to realize his engineering ambitions.

Matthew was born in Peoria, Illinois, although he lived most of his life in Wausau. After graduating from Wausau West High School in 1977, Matthew went to Northcentral Technical College to study printing. After successfully pursuing the printing trade for two years, his natural thirst for new challenges led him to enroll in the engineering program at the University of Wisconsin. After 3½ years of intense study, illness forced him to leave school. He diligently worked his way from the shop at Wausau Metals Corporation to a managerial position as head estimator at Wausau Specialty Products. This position allowed him to apply his engineering knowledge to his work.

After a 6½ year struggle, Matt died at the age of 30, of complications due to cancer. Throughout his ordeal he conducted himself with great dignity. He never complained, sought special favor, or felt sorry for himself. His final years were filled with dignity and a sense of accomplishment.

He had many diverse interests that included hunting, fishing, gardening, downhill skiing, scuba diving, restoring old cars, and raising prize gladiolus.

He was an outgoing individual who showed great concern, commitment, and caring for family, friends, and co workers. He was survived by his parents, Bob and Gloria Paustian; his wife of six years, Beth; a sister, Linda; and two brothers, John and Tim. His capacity to form loyal and enduring friendships was memorialized by friends who dedicated a park bench in his memory, located in Woodson Park.

PURPOSE OF THE FUND:
The purpose of the Matthew R. Paustian Engineering Scholarship Fund is to provide scholarships to graduating Wausau West High School seniors who plan to attend an accredited college or university and pursue an education in the engineering field.

APPLICATIONS AND ELIGIBILITY:
Students that qualify are asked to complete the general scholarship application through Wausau West. The Wausau West Scholarship Selection Committee has been designated by the Community Foundation to serve as the selection committee for this scholarship.
**Selection Guidelines:**
The Selection Committee will choose a recipient who meets the following criteria:

- Wausau West graduating senior;
- Having maintained a GPA in the upper 1/3 of their class
- Planning to attend an accredited college or university
- Majoring in Engineering

**Announcement and Payment:**
If available, a member of the Paustian family will make the presentation of the scholarship award at the schools’ senior high awards ceremonies. If not available, a representative of the Community Foundation will make the presentation on behalf of the Paustian family. The recipients will receive a congratulatory letter from the Community Foundation after the awards ceremony, instructing them on how to receive their scholarship funding.

Scholarship funds will be paid by the Community Foundation directly to the school the student will be attending upon receipt of proof of registration to an accredited college or university.

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

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