The youngest child in his family, Tong Phia Xiong was born in Laos on June 4, 1924. His parents passed away when he was a child and he became an orphan in his early childhood. Even though he suffered a great loss in losing his parents at a young age, he later met the love of his life, Sale Lor. She was born on June 4, 1929 in Laos. Together they raised nine children – 3 daughters and six sons. Tong Phia and filled their life caring for their children and grandchildren. It was their desire to teach them the importance of education.

From 1969 to 1973 Tong Phia was a village Chief in Laos. After becoming the village Chief, and with his family by his side, it seemed Tong Phia was able to build a life for his family that he never had. Unfortunately, his life and the lives of many others were changed forever due to their involvement in the Vietnam War.

In 1973, the U.S. lost the Vietnam War and ordered a withdrawal of its troops. In 1989, Tong Phia and Sale Lor were able to escape the mass murder of the Hmong people as refugees who fled into Thailand. Soon after Tong Phia was able to get his family to the United States safely and they settled in Wausau, Wisconsin. In 2005, they became citizens of the United States and to this day continue to love and take care for their family.

Neng Xiong and his family established this scholarship to honor their love for their parents and to recognize the love and kindness Sale Lor and Tong Phia have always shown to their family as well as to others. This scholarship is a reminder of Sale Lor and Tong Phia’s selflessness and courage, and their pure hearts, which were always willing to give and to help those in need. The scholarship is based on this scripture reading, “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother, and love your neighbor as yourself” into their lives, including personal experiences and views on their role in caring for the elderly.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION
- Able and deserving graduating high school senior from the greater Wausau area; which includes all high schools located within the Wausau and D.C. Everest School Districts;
- Who has demonstrated volunteerism and service to their community;
- And, demonstrates respect for their parents and the elderly population.
- The student must plan to attend a 4-year college or university as a full-time student within the upcoming year, pursuing a degree in any field of study.

ANNOUNCEMENT
The recipient will be announced at their high school senior awards ceremony in the spring.

PAYMENT OF THE SCHOLARSHIP
The recipient will receive a congratulatory letter from the Community Foundation after the awards ceremony, instructing them on how to receive their scholarship funding.

The student must provide proof of registration to the Community Foundation office for payment to be initiated. The Foundation will make payment directly to the college or university the student is attending.