

NENG & BAO XIONG VOLVO SCHOLARSHIP



When Bao and Neng Xiong arrived in Wausau from Laos in 1991, they were not formally educated and spoke very 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. In addition to running an in-home daycare and raising six children, Bao taught cultural dance and provided free tax preparation and interpretation services to Hmong families.

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. In 2006, they established this scholarship fund.

PURPOSE

Award scholarships to able and deserving graduating high school seniors from the greater Wausau area who demonstrate 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 PROCESS

Apply online by visiting www.cfoncw.org. Click on "Grants & Scholarships" / "Scholarships" / "Apply Online Now" 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. Choose the appropriate application from the menu.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: February 15

YOUR APPLICATION MUST INCLUDE:

- Transcript of most recent grades
- List of extracurricular activities (downloadable form online)
- Two reference letters from a teacher, counselor, employer, or community member (no family members allowed)

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

- 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The recipients 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.

