

TONG PHIA XIONG & SAL LOR SCHOLARSHIP



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, Sal Lor. She was born on June 4, 1929 in Laos. Together they raised nine children – three daughters and six sons. Tong Phia and Sal Lor 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 Sal Lor were able to escape the massacred killing 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 in 2011 to honor their love for their parents and to recognize the love and kindness Sal Lor and Tong Phia have always shown to their family as well as to others.

This scholarship is a reminder of Sal 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 – which is the first commandment with a promise – so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." Ephesians 6:1-3. They stated, "God sent us special parents to help us on our ways, and through them, we're reminded of His loving care each and every day."

PURPOSE

To award scholarships to able and deserving graduating high school seniors from the greater Wausau, Wisconsin area. The scholarship will be awarded to a humanitarian student who demonstrates service to their community, tolerance of cultural differences, and respect for their elders. The student must plan to pursue an education at a four-year college or university in any field of study within the year.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Apply online by visiting our website at 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

APPLICATION MUST INCLUDE:

- Transcript of most recent grades
- List of extracurricular activities (downloadable form online)
- Two reference letters
- An essay reflecting on how the applicant integrates the words of Matthew 19, "Honor your father and you 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 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.