

TONG PHIA XIONG & SAL LOR SCHOLARSHIP



FUND BACKSTORY . . .

The Tong Phia Xiong & Sal Lor Scholarship was established in 2011 by their son, Neng Xiong, and his family to honor the love, courage, and faith that defined their parents' lives.

Born in Laos—Tong Phia in 1924 and Sal Lor in 1929—their journey was marked by perseverance and devotion. Orphaned at a young age, Tong Phia faced hardship early in life, but he built a future grounded in family and faith when he met and married Sal Lor. Together, they raised nine children, three daughters and six sons, and later cherished many grandchildren, instilling in them the values of hard work, compassion, and the transformative power of education.

From 1969 to 1973, Tong Phia served as a village chief in Laos, a role that allowed him to lead with wisdom and care, providing stability and opportunity for those around him. However, the Vietnam War changed everything. Following the U.S. withdrawal and the persecution of the Hmong people, the family was forced to flee their homeland in search of safety. In 1989, after years of struggle, Tong Phia and Sal Lor escaped to Thailand as refugees and later resettled in Wausau, Wisconsin, where they built a new life centered on faith, family, and community.

In 2005, they proudly became citizens of the United States, a reflection of their gratitude and resilience. Through all their hardships, Tong Phia and Sal Lor never lost their generosity or faith—they opened their hearts and home to others, always willing to help those in need.

This scholarship honors that spirit of selflessness, courage, and love. It reflects their lifelong belief in the power of education and faith as the foundation of a meaningful life. The guiding scripture for this fund, Ephesians 6:1–3, reminds their family and all who benefit from this gift to “honor your father and mother... so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.” 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.”



ELIGIBILITY

- Graduating high school senior
- Attending a school from the greater Wausau area
- Planning to attend a 4-year college/university,
- Pursuing a degree in any field of study.

CRITERIA

Applications will be evaluated based on:

- Demonstrated volunteerism and service to their community
- Shows respect for their parents and the elderly population.

For more information go to cfoncw.org