

NENG & BAO XIONG VOLVO SCHOLARSHIP



FUND BACKSTORY . . .

The story of Bao and Neng Xiong is one of resilience, compassion, and the unwavering pursuit of opportunity. When they arrived in Wausau, Wisconsin, from Laos in 1991, they carried with them little more than determination and hope. Though neither spoke much English and neither had formal education, they were steadfast in their dream of building a better life for their family and contributing meaningfully to their new community.

To support her family and ease their transition, Bao Xiong began by learning English and earning her GED. She became a licensed childcare provider, opening her home to care for children while raising six of her own. But Bao's impact reached far beyond her household.

She devoted herself to helping other Hmong refugee families adapt to life in America — teaching cultural dance, providing free tax preparation and interpretation services, and mentoring new arrivals as they navigated their own journeys.

Her compassion and commitment to others earned national recognition. In 2003, Bao was named one of the top three finalists for the Volvo for Life Award, a nationwide honor celebrating everyday heroes who make extraordinary contributions to their communities. From more than 2,000 nominees, Bao stood out for her tireless work on behalf of Hmong refugee women in Wausau. 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.

Through this fund, Bao and Neng's legacy of hope and hard work lives on — empowering future generations to overcome obstacles, embrace opportunity, and strengthen the community they call home.



ELIGIBILITY

- Able and deserving graduating high school senior
- From the greater Wausau area
- Pursuing a post-secondary education in any field of study.

CRITERIA

Applications will be evaluated based on:

- Demonstrated volunteerism and service to the community
- Demonstrates acceptance of cultural differences

For more information go to cfoncw.org