

TONG PHIA XIONG & SALE LOR SCHOLARSHIP FUND



A component fund of the

BACKGROUND



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 Sale 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 Sale 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 fund within the Community Foundation 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 – 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 OF THE FUND

The Tong Phia Xiong and Sale Lor Scholarship Fund was initiated in 2011 to annually 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.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

Students will be chosen for this scholarship based on the following criteria:

- Able and deserving graduating high school senior from the greater Wausau area;
- 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.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION AND PROCESS

Students are encouraged to apply online by visiting the Community Foundation's website at www.cfoncw.org. Click the "Apply Now / Grants Scholarships" button on the top menu bar; then go to the left-side menu and click on "Scholarships"; you can then click on the "Apply Online" button anywhere you see it on the page 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. Completed applications must be submitted by **February 15** to be considered by the Selection Committee.

The application will include 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.

In addition to answering the questions and providing the above mentioned essay on the application, you will be asked to include:

- Transcript of grades
- List of extracurricular activities and community service (downloadable form online)
- Two reference letters

A Scholarship Selection Committee appointed by the Community Foundation will review the applications and recommend the recipient to be approved by the Foundation's board of directors. Information will be held in the confidence of the Selection Committee, the Community Foundation's board of directors, and its staff.

ANNOUNCEMENT AND PAYMENT

The recipient will be announced at their high school senior awards ceremony in the spring. The recipient will receive a congratulatory letter from the Community Foundation after the awards ceremony, including instructions for activating their scholarship funding.

Payment of scholarship funds will be made by the Community Foundation of North Central Wisconsin directly to the college or university the scholarship recipient is attending. The student must provide proof of registration to the Community Foundation office before payment will be initiated.

For more information, you can contact the Community Foundation office:



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