



WINOOSKI SCHOOLS
We are the future.

March 12th, 2020 at 1pm, WSD students Bonne-Idee Kasindi and Rashid Muzaliwa will sing *Twende Shuleni* for the Vermont statehouse devotional.

Twende Shuleni - Let Us Go to School (lyrics)

*We have come from far away through hardship and a lot of suffering
We went through a lot that we could not make it on our own.
However, there is someone who cared for us and brought us this far.
only Him has led us.*

*I am very happy that I am able to go to school.
oh friends, Let us go to school
our parents wish that we can go to school
to help them in the future.
Through education we will help out parents in the future.
We all need to love education*

*We need to remember our relatives back home
Whom we left suffering...
Let us not forget about them
Let us hug them
Let us love school so that one day we can prosper and be able to help our relatives.*



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As for us, our parents rely on us

That is the reason why I am telling you all

Let us go to school, to be able to help our parents in the future.

When we think about our past, and where we come from,

We have gone through so much, we could have not made it.

But God saved us at a younger age.

That's why we need to pursue education

Photo: Bonne-Idee Kasindi, Rep. Peter Welch, Rashid Muzaliwa



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Rashid - Rashid is 14-years-old. He was born in Uvira, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The family fled the country because of political violence and settled in a refugee camp in Burundi. They waited 15 years to be resettled in the United States. The family was resettled to Vermont where “they immediately felt welcomed by the Winooski community.” Rashid is the fourth child of seven children. He is also the second eldest male in the household. Rashid is a hard working young man who has some challenges with verbal expression, but a passion for expressing himself through music.

Bonne-Idee - Bonne-Idee is 21-years-old. He was born in Uvira, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The family fled the country because of political violence and settled in a refugee camp in Burundi. They waited 17 years to be resettled in the United States. The



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family was initially placed in North Carolina. However, because of the lack of family and friend's support together with a resettlement program that was not meeting their needs, the family made the move to Vermont. Bonne Idee is the oldest male child in the family, as a result he shares similar family leadership responsibilities as his mother. Bonne-Idee is a quiet deeply spiritual young man who feels great gratitude to America for his family's resettlement. Bonne-Idee has found peace and healing from the stress in his life in his music.

From Mike Webster, WSD employee and sound engineer who recorded video *Twende Shuleni*:

"The Twende Shuleni musical composition was first created to give Bonne-Idee and Rashid a way of expressing themselves musically and in a manner that might provide them an opportunity for positive feedback— considering the numerous challenges refugees have to their self esteem together with the serious trauma they have suffered from the violence of ethnic conflicts in East Africa. Once the musical composition was recorded, they wanted to shoot a video. We coached them through the writing of a script, logistics and I shot the video at the school. This effort arguably was possible by coincidence — knowing me from school. However, it makes one wonder if the school district had the resources how many other Winooski students might be able to grow, productively channel teen energy/emotions, and give artistic value back to the community."