Muzehe lived in a village in the Congo. He was a skilled furniture maker and a father of seven children. One day, his village was attacked and his wife and five of his children were killed. Muzehe and his two children began the dangerous 60-mile walk to a refugee camp. After completing the vetting process, Muzehe was eligible for resettlement and the family arrived in NH.

Muzehe's family was placed in a 3rd floor sparsely furnished apartment with running water, electricity, kitchen appliances, and a full bathroom. His children were registered with the school system knowing beginner level English.

Muzehe was struggling with this new life. He only spoke his native language, Kinyarwanda, he was not familiar with the surrounding neighborhoods and he did not know how to pay his rent.

He was referred to the Manchester Community Resource Center’s (MCRC) STEP Program and an instructor that also spoke Kinyarwanda. Together they addressed his immediate crises, including safe housing, food, transportation & health related issues. He was also referred to a Vocational Rehabilitation center for the hearing, sight & cognitive impairments he was dealing with.

Muzehe continued to work with his STEP instructor to learn English, how to tell time, how to use a debit card, and the walking route to MCRC. Eventually, Muzehe met with a Job Coach from a local agency to provide additional support during his job placement.

Muzehe's family has adjusted to their new life in NH and continue to work with MCRC staff members. Muzehe has learned to pay his rent; he is living within walking distance to a grocery store and Walmart and his children are excelling in school. Muzehe plans to apply to become a U.S. permanent resident within the next couple months.

United Way fights for the health, education and financial stability of every person in every community.

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