

2018 GLOBAL CITIZEN AWARD



Abdullahi (front R) and other members of WUSC U of R

ABDULLAHI NUNOW was born in Somalia, and fled to Kenya where he lived as a refugee. After completing elementary and high school, he worked as a tutor helping students, and also taught at a secondary school in the refugee camp. In 2015, Abdullahi came to Canada from Kenya through WUSC's Student Refugee Program. As soon as he arrived in Regina he joined the WUSC U of R Committee because he wanted to get involved in helping refugee youth, like himself, build a

better future, and wanted to give back to the community that helped him come to Canada. Through this role, Abdullahi has become a mentor for recently arrived students, helping them adjust to living in Canada and to feel at home.

Before leaving the refugee camp where he grew up in Dadaab, Kenya, Abdullahi and his friend founded Give Hope, an organization to help vulnerable kids access education by raising funds for tuition fees and school materials. Give Hope now has six beneficiaries, three primary school students and three students pursuing a diploma at Kenya Polytechnic College. He considers that he will never give up working towards supporting people in need.

He says, "My objective is to make possible the dreams of talented youth come true, who can make difference if given the chance and the right environment."

A Conversation with Saskatchewan's Global Citizens...

What does Global Citizenship mean to you?

It is a privilege for me to receive such an important award. Even though the passion I have for helping those in need motivates me to do the charity work that I do, being recognized for such efforts, which winning the Global Citizen Award offers, is something to be proud of, which I am.



What do you feel are some of the biggest challenges currently facing our global community? What do you identify as possible solutions to these challenges?

Illiteracy. In many parts of the world, young people do not have access to quality education. In some parts of the world people don't know about what value does human life represents, all they care is themselves. One thing that will help and solve this problem is making awareness and educating people about love, equality and caring to one another.

Where do you find your inspiration?

I draw my inspiration from my own experience. I faced lots of obstacle accessing education and I know how kids facing the same challenges feel.

Tell us about a teacher, mentor, or other role-model who really made a difference in your life.

My mom has to be the greatest mentor in my life. Through example, she taught me to be kind and generous. I grew up seeing my mom help neighbours and strangers alike. Humans were equal before her eyes as the recipients of her charitable activities were random residents of the refugee camp, regardless of ethnicity etc. She taught me that helping out a human in need is a source of self-pride.

What do you see as one of the most encouraging or innovative trends that is creative positive change in our world right now?

I would say the internet. It's a tool that we have seen could be used to not only spread democracy, but also aids in charitable causes by enabling donors to crowdfund. If used properly, the internet has the power to bring positive changes in people's lives.

What is one way that you try to work for sustainable solutions to global challenges?

Partnership and Solidarity is an important tool that I use to work with my friends in order to help and give back. I can do an effective solution but with help of my friends it will be more effective. ♦

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