

Ready
Willing
& Able

The Doe Fund

A Working Way Home for the Men in Blue

2017 Annual Report

Letter from the Founders

As we reflect on the accomplishments of the Men in Blue in 2017, we are overcome with gratitude for your generous support.

Thanks to you, this year more than 200 men made the commitment to turn their lives around for good by completing our *Ready, Willing & Able* program. Following in the footsteps of more than 6,500 graduates, they discovered the dignity and self-confidence that could only be gained through their hard work.

Time after time, we've seen how access to opportunity can help men break away from the devastating cycles of extreme poverty, incarceration, and substance abuse, and start on a new path to success and self-sufficiency. The paid work, housing, support, and holistic services we provide are not "charity"—they are investments in that journey, and are reflective of our belief in the potential and value of every human being.

When we prepare a man to re-enter the workforce, we help to ensure that he can provide for himself and for his family. When we support a man's sobriety, we help him recover his physical and mental health. And when we teach a man how to become self-sufficient, we build stronger communities and safer cities.



Every Man in Blue has his own unique story and perspective, but they all have this in common: They want to work. They want to better themselves. They want to make meaningful contributions to society. And they have the opportunity to do all of this and more because of compassionate people like you.

Thank you for your partnership this past year—and for the positive change you've already set in motion for years to come.

Sincerely,

Harriet & George McDonald



About The Doe Fund

The Doe Fund's mission is to break the cycles of homelessness, addiction, and criminal recidivism by providing holistic services, housing, and work opportunities.

Ready, Willing & Able

Ready, Willing & Able provides a working way home for homeless men with long histories of incarceration, addiction, and unemployment. At the core of the 12-month residential program is *paid work*—complemented by holistic social services, career training, education, and sobriety support. It is the only program of its kind that combines paid work with comprehensive services to help men become permanently self-sufficient.

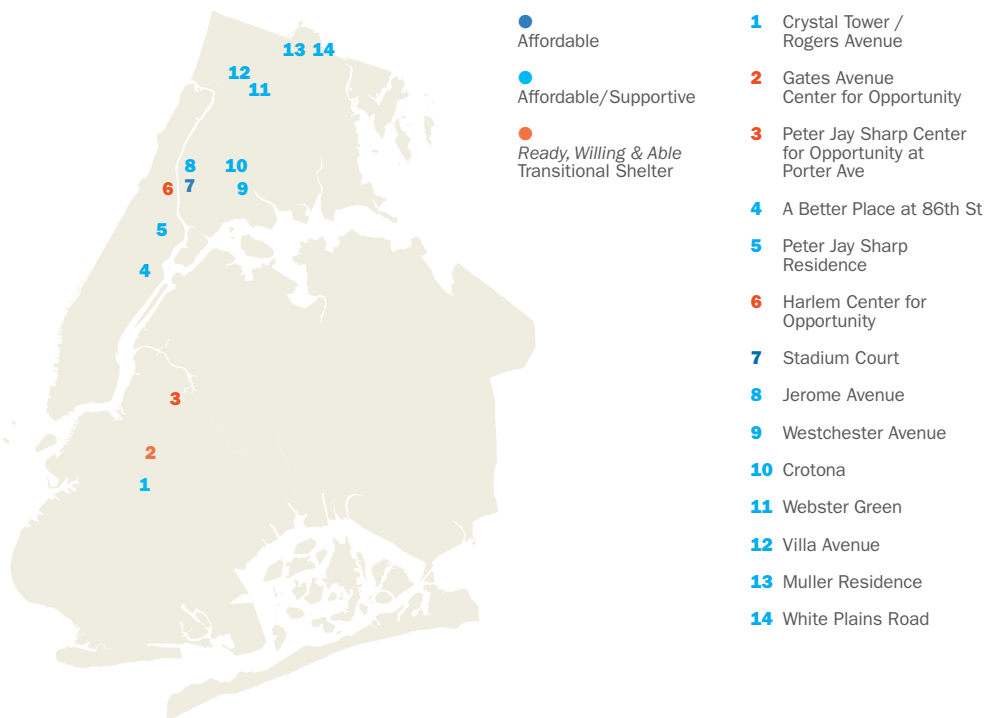
The “Men in Blue,” as participants in the program are known, have faced extraordinary hardships, but are determined to permanently change their lives and the lives of their families. Since 1990, more than 6,500 men have graduated from *Ready, Willing & Able* with their sobriety, a full-time job, and a permanent home.

Housing Initiatives

One of the largest barriers to economic independence in New York City is the notorious shortage of affordable housing. And yet, access to safe, stable housing is critical to keep New York's most vulnerable populations from becoming homeless.

Since 1996, The Doe Fund has developed high-quality, affordable homes for the city's most vulnerable populations, including individuals and families challenged with histories of poverty, homelessness, substance abuse, physical disabilities, mental illness, and HIV/AIDS. In the coming year, The Doe Fund is set to dramatically expand its network of permanent affordable and supportive housing facilities serving our target populations.

The Doe Fund's Facilities



Ready, Willing & Able Outcomes

Ready, Willing & Able provides immediate access to a paying job and is proven to reduce recidivism and provide a pathway to opportunity after incarceration.

\$3.60

IS SAVED
BY THE NYC TAXPAYER
FOR EVERY \$1 SPENT
ON THE PROGRAM

33%

REDUCTION IN
POLICE CONTACT AFTER
FOUR MONTHS IN
READY, WILLING & ABLE

60%

REDUCTION IN
FELONY CONVICTIONS
AMONG GRADUATES OF
READY, WILLING & ABLE

Ready, Willing & Able's occupational training tracks meet local workforce demands and provide graduates with not only a pathway to work, but also a financially stable and fulfilling career.

332

READY, WILLING & ABLE
TRAINEES SECURED
FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT

\$12.85

GRADUATES' AVERAGE
STARTING WAGE

75%

OF GRADUATES
MAINTAINED THEIR JOB FOR
AT LEAST 3 MONTHS

What happens next? Industries in which the Men in Blue secured full-time work:

2017 Graduate Job Category

Facilities / Maintenance / Repair	22%
Food Preparation / Food Service Related	21%
Transportation / Warehousing	13%
Community / Social Service	11%
Construction / Installation	11%
Fire / Law Enforcement / Security	11%
Other	11%



A Working Way Home for the Men in Blue

The one-year journey through The Doe Fund's Ready, Willing & Able program—explained.

Ready, Willing & Able provides a working way home for men with long histories of homelessness, incarceration, and addiction. At the core of the 12-month residential program is paid work—complemented by holistic social services, career training, education, and sobriety support. It is the only program of its kind that combines paid work with comprehensive services to help men become permanently self-sufficient.

The year-long journey through *Ready, Willing & Able* takes place over four deliberate, structured phases: Commit to Change, Reenter the Community, Build a Career, and Secure Independence.



“I spent 17 years selling drugs and guns. I don’t want to be in that environment any more —I’m here to change.”

Ray Taylor, *Ready, Willing & Able* trainee



MONTH 1

Commit to Change

The decision to enter *Ready, Willing & Able* means making a commitment to change. On day one, participants begin earning a paycheck through in-house work assignments while they adjust to the program's demands. Case managers work 1-on-1 with participants to orient them, assess their needs and set goals—including selecting occupational training and education tracks. In turn, participants commit to maintaining their sobriety and paying any owed child support. They begin a curriculum of evening classes and courses that last the duration of the program, including financial management, parenting, and general education.

MONTHS 2-4

Reenter the Community

After long histories of homelessness and incarceration, reentering the community—and the workforce—is difficult and intimidating. Months two through four of *Ready, Willing & Able* introduce paid off-site work to accelerate earnings and savings, and address social and soft-skill deficits. The Men in Blue earn their nickname in bright blue uniforms, working in teams to beautify New York City's streets and sidewalks. Along the way, they build self-esteem, teamwork skills, and their savings. In the evenings, the Men in Blue engage in intensive computer and education classes, learning skills critical in the modern workplace.

MONTHS 5-8

Build a Career

In this third phase of *Ready, Willing & Able*, the Men in Blue choose an occupational training track based on their interests, ambitions, and abilities. They transition out of street cleaning teams and join paid, full-time training opportunities within The Doe Fund's social enterprises. Each training track culminates with a certification or professional license that provides for long-term career sustainability and advancement. In the evenings, the Men in Blue take classes to sharpen job search skills, learn how to write resumes and cover letters, and prepare for job interviews.

MONTHS 9-12

Secure Independence

In the final months of the program, the Men in Blue work closely with housing specialists and career coaches to secure full-time employment and permanent housing: two of the criteria required to graduate from *Ready, Willing & Able*, along with sobriety and paying owed child support. When they're ready to move out, they receive move-in kits for their new apartments. Successful graduates receive earnings supplement grants post-graduation to ease their transition. Our graduate services staff stays in touch with alumni, providing career development opportunities, temporary employment, and education advancement support to those who need it—which is why, at our annual graduation ceremony, you'll often hear among the cheers, "Doe Fund for life!"



“I lost all my family when I went to prison. I was left with nothing. The Doe Fund is my stepping stone. It’s allowing me to change.”



Larry Thomas,
Ready, Willing & Able trainee



69%

of the Men in Blue had contact with the criminal justice system

33%

of the Men in Blue did not have a high school diploma or equivalency at intake

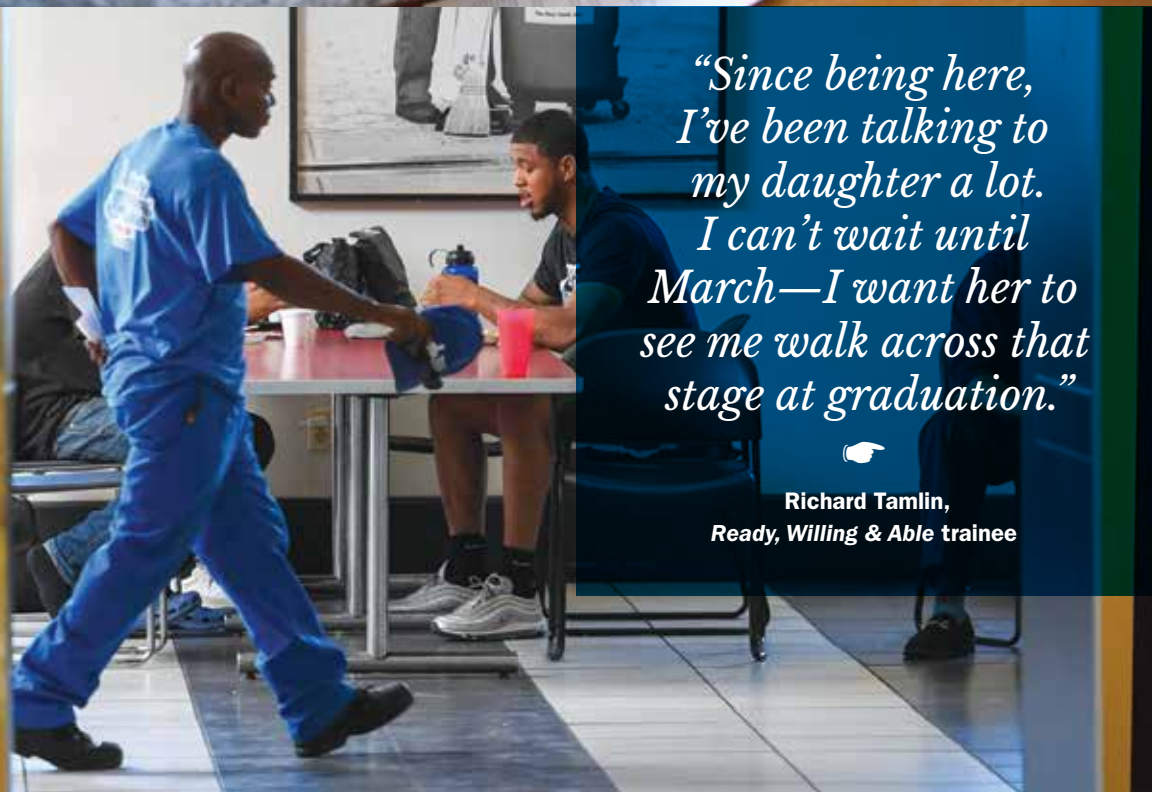


41

is the average age of the Men in Blue

9%

of the Men in Blue spent time in foster care



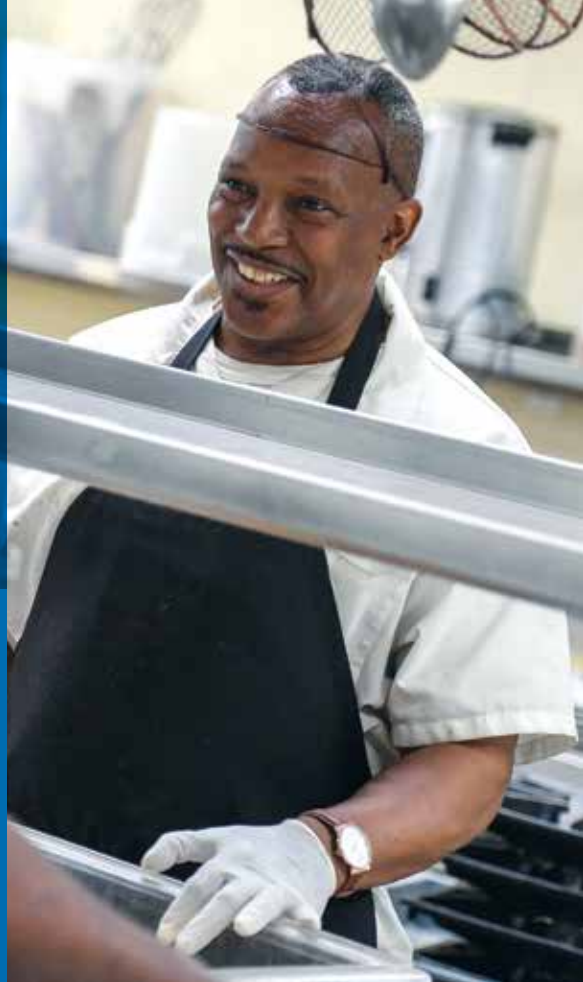
*“Since being here,
I’ve been talking to
my daughter a lot.
I can’t wait until
March—I want her to
see me walk across that
stage at graduation.”*



Richard Tamlin,
Ready, Willing & Able trainee

*“A few months ago,
my family was evicted
from our apartment and
I ended up homeless.
I’m here because of the
opportunity—I’m saving
for my own apartment.”*

Joshua Pistora (age 25),
Ready, Willing & Able trainee



54%

of the Men in Blue
are fathers

23%

of the Men in Blue
are on parole



10%

of the Men in Blue
were incarcerated
as a juvenile

11

is the average
number of years
that the Men in Blue
who are formerly
incarcerated spent
in prison





2017 Financial Summary

Revenues

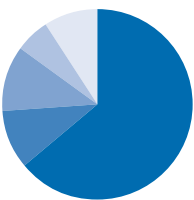
Government grants and contracts	\$ 32,300,766	64%
Earned revenue	4,972,222	10%
Contributions	5,678,683	11%
Development and management fees	2,984,484	6%
Other income	4,570,996	9%
Total Revenue	\$ 50,507,151	

Expenses

Program expenses	\$ 38,674,927	79%
<i>Residential and social services</i>	19,961,893	41%
<i>Work and training</i>	18,505,291	38%
<i>Affordable housing operations</i>	207,743	<1%
Management and general	6,873,175	14%
Fundraising	1,967,279	4%
Depreciation and amortization	1,499,692	3%
Total Expenses	\$ 49,015,073	

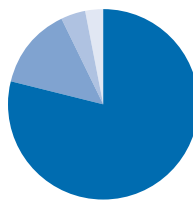
Increase in Net Assets	1,492,078
Net Assets—beginning	7,802,741
Net Assets—end	\$ 9,294,819

Where It Comes From



- Government grants and contracts (64%)
- Earned revenue (10%)
- Contributions (11%)
- Development and management fees (6%)
- Other income (9%)

Where It Goes



- Program Expenses (79%)
- Management and general (14%)
- Fundraising (4%)
- Depreciation and amortization (3%)

5 Ways to Support the Men in Blue

The Doe Fund's thriving community of generous donors, dedicated volunteers, corporate partners, employers partners, and committed staff create a path to success for the Men in Blue. We invite you to get involved and make a difference for the men we serve and their families.

1.

Make a donation. Your financial support allows us to empower the Men in Blue to secure economic independence. Consider making a financial gift in support of their journeys. Learn more about all the ways to give, including planned and investment gifts, at doe.org/donate.

2.

Become an employer partner.

The Men in Blue are available for hire! Work with us to recruit and connect our skilled and motivated graduates with long-term career paths. To learn more, contact info@doe.org.

3.

Volunteer. We are constantly in need of individuals, groups, and corporate partners to actively engage with the Men in Blue for both long-term and one-time opportunities. To learn more, join our email list at doe.org.

4.

Support our social enterprises.

The Doe Fund's social enterprises serve the community and help train and employ the Men in Blue. Learn more about hiring our catering company, street cleaning services, and pest control services by contacting us at info@doe.org

5.

Keep in touch. Stay engaged with the Men in Blue by connecting with us on social media and signing up to receive our email updates. You'll receive inspiring stories about the Men in Blue and the latest updates from The Doe Fund.

Board List / Contact

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