

- Employment: *George McDonald*, The Doe Fund

“Work works.” This simple motto is the core of the Ready, Willing, & Able employment, housing, and recovery program which reaches single men in New York City who have long histories of homelessness, addiction, and incarceration. Candidates for RWA have to be ready to change their lives, willing to follow rules, and able to work. The "men in blue," as program enrollees are called for their blue uniforms, work hard in a program of employment, counseling, recovery, and community. Mr. McDonald first began to develop the idea for Ready, Willing & Able more than fifteen years ago, setting out to prove that a formerly homeless person could create a viable existence if he were able to obtain even a minimum wage low skill job, rent an affordable room, and stay off drugs. The results are quantifiable. RWA has successfully graduated over 3,180 individuals to date with the key metrics of success measured as housing stability, employment, and sobriety. In 2007, RWA’s graduation rate in its residential programs was over 60%, and the 6-month success rate was 65%. For those coming out of jail or prison in a residential facility or the day program, the graduation rate was over 70%, and the 6-month success rate is over 60%.