



The Doe Fund

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**THE DOE FUND RAISES \$1.8 MILLION AT STAR-STUDED GALA,
LAUNCHES “CAMPAIGN FOR OPPORTUNITY”
CELEBRITIES, CIVIC LEADERS, AND PHILANTHROPISTS PLEDGE SUPPORT FOR
FORMERLY HOMELESS, INCARCERATED MEN IN NEW YORK CITY**

October 31, 2014 (NEW YORK) -- New York-based nonprofit organization The Doe Fund held its annual Gala Benefit Thursday, drawing more than 500 attendees and raising \$1.8 million for the organization’s programs which serve formerly homeless and incarcerated men and veterans.

In advance of the organization’s 30th anniversary in 2015, the “Campaign for Opportunity”-- a \$20 million expansion plan-- was launched to specifically address the needs of young men affected by the criminal justice system.

The campaign will enable the organization to serve 1,000 more individuals annually with new transitional and supportive housing facilities in Manhattan, Brooklyn, and the Bronx.

The Doe Fund’s founder and president, George McDonald, called the explosion of incarceration and homelessness among young men a “crisis of opportunity,” and remarked that, “Each of us deserves the opportunity to live by our own hands; to lay down roots and grow our families. And until every person in this great country has the opportunity to work and pursue a path of prosperity and independence, our work is not yet complete.” Remarks available at: <http://blog.doe.org/>.

Harriet Karr-McDonald, Executive Vice President for the organization, echoed that sentiment. “We cannot afford to lose another generation of children to incarceration,” she said. “We have to ensure that the most vulnerable members of our society have the opportunity they need to uplift their lives and the lives of their families.”



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The event's guests included some of the most notable names in entertainment, city government, and philanthropy including *Orange Is The New Black* star Selenis Leyva; former MTA chief Joe Lhota; Latin music sensation Ana Isabelle; TONY award-winning writer and actor Dick Scanlan; actress and model Zineb Oukach (Kohana); *St. Vincent* star Ray Iannicelli; and television legend John Amos.

Two graduates of the organization's flagship Ready, Willing & Able program spoke to the crowd, thanking them for supporting the organization that saved their lives. Richard Norat, who spent twenty years incarcerated before joining Ready, Willing & Able left the audience emotionally stunned, saying, "People like you are the reason why my hope didn't die in prison."

ADDITIONAL EVENT COVERAGE:

<http://blog.doe.org>

ABOUT THE DOE FUND

Founded in 1985 by homeless advocate George T. McDonald, The Doe Fund provides life-transforming services, supportive and transitional housing, and economic opportunity for formerly homeless and incarcerated men, veterans, and people living with AIDS.

Through its pioneering work in social enterprise, including the acclaimed Ready, Willing & Able program, The Doe Fund reduces recidivism, improves the quality of life in city neighborhoods, and fosters permanent economic independence among its clients.

Known throughout the city by their distinctive blue uniforms, The "men in blue" of The Doe Fund's Ready, Willing & Able program clean more than 170 miles of New York City streets and sidewalks as part of a year-long program of recovery, personal and professional development, and economic advancement.

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