

Mike Kirwan, Class of 2008



I work at the Robin Hood Foundation, where I manage a \$10 million portfolio of grants to anti-poverty programs in New York City, specifically focusing on programs serving young children and their parents. Robin Hood prides itself on its use of research to drive investment decisions and to measure grantee performance, and my Williams economics degree has proved invaluable in my success at my job. Specifically, being able to understand economic research, whether via academic journals, NBER working papers, or city, state, and federal reports is a skill that I learned at Williams. In my day-to-day work, this skill allows me to argue that certain programs are more effective than others at moving families out of poverty, which we measure in terms of increased earnings or improved health (measured in quality-adjusted life years).