



A helping hand for students whose learning was affected by COVID



The 2020 abrupt pivot to distance learning last spring highlighted major gaps in accessibility of laptops and internet connectivity for NHR students. While learning remotely at home, a quality laptop can make all the difference for students between tuning in, or tuning out.

New Haven Reads was fortunate to partner with **Analysis Group** and its IT department to provide 80 refurbished laptops to NHR students and our Readers to Leaders program. One of our Science Park students told us, "I can't even believe that I just got a new laptop and it is faster than a Chromebook. I was so happy when I found out that I could keep the laptop. I love this laptop better than my PC ... it has a battery issue and can't hold the charge."

We are also grateful for a generous grant from the **Yale Community for New Haven Fund** that helped with this initiative. The funding paid for LeBlanc Tech Services to visit 17 families who were having internet connectivity issues. In these homes, the technicians were able to troubleshoot issues and provide technical assistance to improve internet connectivity for families. This improvement was instantaneous and now students no longer have issues with being online for school or for tutoring. One parent told us, "They did a GREAT JOB!! Everything is working so much better than before. THANK YOU."



It takes the whole community to support its children as they learn to read. Thank you to Analysis Group and the Yale Community for New Haven Fund for reducing the barriers that hinder our students from making the most of their educational time.



One year since lockdown!

We closed our physical locations and moved to online tutoring one year ago! We are so grateful for your support – **you** are helping to make sure our students are able to improve their reading skills. **Please visit our YouTube Channel to watch our one minute video** about how we continued to share the joy and power of reading this year!

Volunteer Spotlight: Science Park's Christa Rotolo



Christa turned her lifelong love of reading and her desire to get involved in her community into action when she joined NHR as a tutor in November 2019.

Working with her NHR students gives her a great sense of joy and purpose, and she is impressed with their enthusiasm and desire to learn. Christa is

especially inspired by the dedication of one of her students who always insists on reading by herself.

Julie Yerganian, Assistant Site Director tells us, "Christa has risen to the challenge of distance learning with dedication and flexibility. She is always willing to work with any student on any topic, and is sensitive to the needs and personality of each individual. We are so grateful to have her as a volunteer at Science Park!"

We appreciate Christa's enthusiasm and commitment for our program and for the other 228 wonderful volunteer tutors who share the joy and power of reading every week!

We recently completed our 2021 Student Survey and our students told us some of the things they like about being at NHR.





Winter by the Numbers

- **279** one-on-one tutoring students for **453** hours of programs every week.
- **229** distance learning tutors
- **8** Pre-K and Kindergarten program students
- **2,078** books distributed

Upcoming Events

NHR Open for tutoring on Good Friday, April 2, 2021.

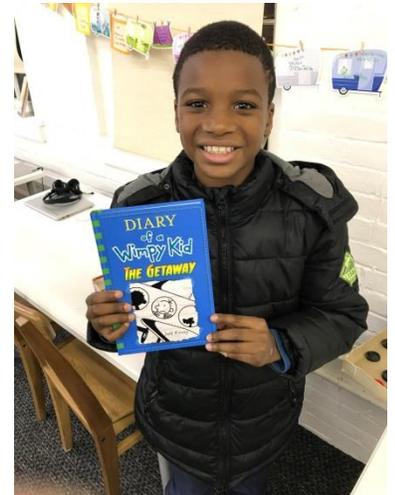
April Recess: No tutoring from April 12 to 17

Volunteer Trivia Night

April 29, 6:30pm to 8pm. Register on our website, www.newhavenreads.org

The 2021 Great Give

Save the date for the 2021 Great Give from 8am on May 4 to 8pm on May 5



Free Books Available

Weather permitting, book carts will be displayed in the 45 Bristol Street parking lot on Mondays and Fridays from 12:30pm to 3:30pm. All are welcome to take books. Please share this with your networks. We continue to accept book donations by appointment only. For more information, please contact books@newhavenreads.org

We are grateful every day for our amazing volunteers and we look forward to celebrating them during April,
National Volunteer Appreciation Month!



RISE: Piloting a Powerful Approach to Reading Instruction

Recognizing that a small percentage of students have significant reading challenges that require a more intensive approach, New Haven Reads has started RISE (Reading Interventions for Success Everyday) in partnership with Literacy How.



This pilot program puts the latest in scientific research into practice by providing five NHR students with specialized tutoring in a Structured Literacy approach, that is, systematic, cumulative, explicit and diagnostic instruction.

In the pilot, five students are tutored three times a week for 30 weeks. The five RISE tutors have received specialized training in the Structured Literacy Model. The program is adaptive and individualized based on data. All of our students are making gains as we have passed our twentieth week of the pilot program! Huge thanks to the donors and Foundations who have made this pilot program a reality.

Thank you for supporting New Haven Reads!

You can keep in touch with all that is happening at New Haven Reads by following us on social media!



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