

New Haven Reads closes educational gaps and helps students reach their goals.

NHR is ready for an exciting 2022!

2021 was an eventful year at New Haven Reads! In July, we re-introduced in-person tutoring along with our distance learning program. We distributed thousands of books and created a new *virtual* school field trip program. We expanded our RISE program which is a specialized Structured Literacy program for a small cohort of students. We also created a partnership with the Department of Children and Family office to distribute books to children in foster care.



We are excited to see what 2022 will bring and we look forward to supporting our students so they can reach their goals!

Noah is discovering the joy and power of reading at our Willow Street location.



Noah first came to New Haven Reads on a field trip and when his parents heard about the one-on-one tutoring program, they signed him up! Although Noah loved to listen to stories and audio books, traditional reading was challenging for him.

Our NHR program is tailored to meet the needs of each aspiring reader, and Noah's tutor works with him weekly on his literacy skills. Noah attended Zoom tutoring when New Haven Reads switched to online learning because of the pandemic. He has explored creative writing through an enrichment club and loves to choose new books in the book giveaways. His report card shows that he is making steady progress, and he is performing

well in the NHR assessment measures.

Site Director, Carol Sarmiento said, "We love seeing Noah every week – he is a joy to work with and brings so much to his sessions."

Jennie shared "...we can credit the work of this program to guiding us and supporting him every step of the way in his journey to read. He knows his time at NHR is special and that he is lucky to be there." New Haven Reads is tremendously proud of Noah and his achievements. We are excited to support him as he continues to set new goals for himself on his reading journey.



A warm welcome to our new staff members!



Fernanda Franco is the new Outreach Director at New Haven Reads. A singer, activist, teacher and coach, Fernanda leads the planning and execution of all aspects of volunteer management at NHR. Born in Brazil, she has found her home in New Haven.

Charlene Cua has recently joined our team as Associate Education Director. Charlene will teach some of our pre-k and kindergarten programs and support our literacy partnerships. Originally from Florida, Charlene has an extensive background in the teaching of reading, along with pre-k and kindergarten classroom teaching experience.



Have you been thinking about volunteering in your community in 2022?



Now is the perfect time to **sign up to volunteer!** We are currently calling students off our waiting list to join our program. **We need your help!** If you or someone you know would like to tutor – please contact [**volunteer@newhavenreads.org**](mailto:volunteer@newhavenreads.org)

Calling all teachers!

Did you know NHR offers virtual field trips for classrooms? We have spots left for the remainder of the school year.

Teachers can order free books for their students and a volunteer will read stories over Zoom to their classes.

Find out more at [**newhavenreads.org**](http://newhavenreads.org)





Huge thanks to the IT Team at Analysis Group who have generously donated over 100 refurbished laptops! We have been able to give these laptops to students like Tenaya, who recently received laptops from Site Director, Carol.



Upcoming Events and Important Dates

February Break

No tutoring: Monday, February 21 – Saturday, February 26

Book Bank open **only**: Monday, February 21 – Tuesday, February 22

Tutor Training: Foundations of the Program Model

February 24; 2pm – 4pm; via Zoom

Tutor Training: Structured Literacy Interventions Session #2

March 5; 11am; via Zoom

Winter Book Bank Hours

Monday: 12pm-4pm

Tuesday: 1pm-7pm

Wednesday: 1pm-7pm

Thursday: 1pm-6pm

Friday: 12pm-4pm



Each NHR student chose two brand new books during our Winter Book Giveaway! Building home libraries with high interest books is an important element of our literacy program.

Special thanks to Abrams Publishing for their generous donation of hundreds of the latest Wimpy Kid books! This series is definitely one of the most popular for all of our students!

Volunteer Spotlight: Kavita Israni-Winger



Kavita started volunteering at Bristol Street location in the fall of 2017, right after she moved to New Haven. She became a volunteer because she wanted to help children overcome their obstacles and provide a form of support for them.

When we asked Kavita what keeps her coming back, she answered with, **“I love to see my students’ progress! I have a great relationship with all my students and seeing them succeed and improve over time is one of the most gratifying things in the world. They’re so proud when they realize they’ve accomplished something new and I’m so grateful to be able to help them and witness this.”**

Among Kavita’s favorite books are the *Elephant and Piggie* books. She thinks that the author of the series is a genius. We know quite a few students who agree with her!

We are so grateful to Kavita and all of the volunteers who make NHR such a success. If you are interested in finding out more about how you can become a tutor, please **visit our volunteer page on our website or email volunteer@newhavenreads.org!**



Thank you to the hundreds of donors supported New Haven Reads in our recent Annual Appeal! Keep in touch in 2022 by following us!

