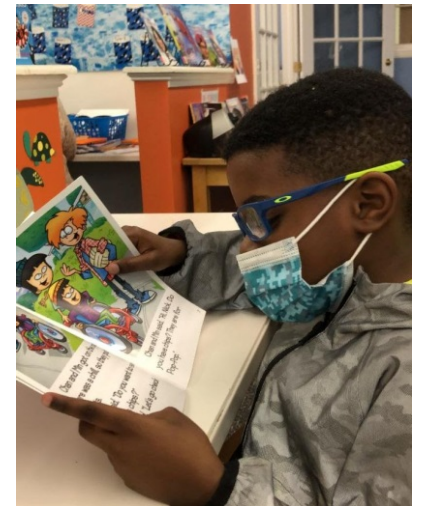


## How NHR's scientific approach supports students in the reading crisis caused by the pandemic.

Reading and literacy scores were already of concern before the pandemic and now our communities face the challenge of supporting even more students with significant learning gaps. Unlike learning to speak, children must be taught how to read and the method of instruction matters. In June 2021, the Connecticut Legislature passed a law (dubbed the "Right to Read Act") that systematizes the teaching of the "science of reading" in state public schools which will be implemented by 2023.

New Haven Reads literacy programs have *always* been based in the science of reading. Our phonics-based approach also uses Structured Literacy which research has shown will benefit all readers. This is how NHR has such a tremendous impact on our students' reading skills and scores!



Research from the National Institutes of Health demonstrates that 95% of children can learn to read. Of these children, 30% will learn to read regardless of the teaching method and 50% require explicit, systematic, and sequential instruction (Structured Literacy). These are the types of students that New Haven Reads supports in our traditional one-on-one tutoring program. 15% of students require a Structured Literacy approach but with increased time and instruction. These are the students we support in our Reading Intervention for Success Everyday (RISE) program.

The pandemic has refocused attention nationwide on how to support students as they face considerable literacy gaps. Learning to read will have long-term, transformative impacts on these students, their families, and the socioeconomic future of our community. At NHR, our dedicated staff and volunteers help bridge this gap through our science-based programs.

**Thank you for being a part of this movement to share the joy and power of reading.**

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## NHR participated in the New Haven Public Schools' Rally for Reading event on April 12.

Two former NHR students, Jeffrey and Jordan, spoke about the impact NHR had on their reading to the packed auditorium and we gave away hundreds of books to student attendees! Read more about the event [here in the New Haven Independent!](#)



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## April is Volunteer Appreciation Month! A special note to our incredible volunteers:



Thank you for giving a piece of your heart to our cause.

Your passion for the education of our youth is beautiful and inspiring. As a newcomer to our NHR family, I see with fresh eyes that you give the most precious gift to our community: your time and patience. Although April is Volunteer Appreciation Month, know that we at NHR appreciate you every single day. We could not be here without you. We truly appreciate your dedication to our mission.

I'm excited to be along for the ride toward sharing the joy and power of reading with Greater New Haven!

Ever inspired,  
**Fernanda**  
NHR Outreach Director



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## Volunteer Spotlight: Gabriel Galeotos

College student, Gabriel began tutoring last September at the Science Park site. His desire to volunteer at New Haven Reads stems from his childhood experience participating in a school literacy program that supported his reading. He told us: "It was always my goal to help others learn to overcome their difficulties with reading, building upon my experiences in a similar program."



When asked why he keeps returning, Gabriel's response was, "... seeing the joy in each of the children's eyes as they read a book. Additionally, seeing the spark on their face as a new topic is understood - it brings me great pride as a volunteer."

Gabriel enjoys working with his students Mecca and Alanur. His focus is to make their tutoring hours as engaging and rewarding as possible. He notes, "One thing I do not think could be overlooked is to take time to enjoy the small victories." His students certainly benefit! Not only are their literacy scores improving, they are having fun in tutoring with Gabriel!

*We are so grateful to Gabriel 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 here or email [volunteer@newhavenreads.org](mailto:volunteer@newhavenreads.org)!*



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

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### Spring at NHR by the Numbers

Working with **313** students at **3** locations every week for **418** hours of programs

Thank you to our **213** volunteer tutors

We distributed **7,044** books in March



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## Our newest NHR program: EMERGE Spotlighting emerging bilingual students

EMERGE is a new NHR program that focuses on emerging bilingual students recruited through our partnership with the Newcomers Program at New Haven Public Schools and IRIS (Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services). This program is currently in a pilot phase and will expand in the summer thanks to funding from the International Association of New Haven.

Emerging bilingual students who have recently immigrated to the US will benefit greatly from our tailored literacy intervention so they can catch up with their classroom peers. Our EMERGE students have been in the US for several months already and have some English proficiency. At NHR, they will receive essential language instruction as they adapt to their new environment.

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**Please support  
New Haven Reads!**



**Mark your calendars!**

The Great Give will take place from May 4 to May 5!

Please make a gift to support our Pre-K / Kindergarten summer programs and help us to qualify for a share of the prize funds.

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**Thank you for supporting New Haven Reads!**

**Keep in touch by following us!**



[www.newhavenreads.org](http://www.newhavenreads.org)

