

Celebrating our amazing NHR volunteers!



Volunteers are critical to the success of New Haven Reads. Over 325 community members come to one of our 5 locations every week and work with our students. Others come to our Book Bank and sort books and welcome field trips.

April is Volunteer Appreciation Month – and we are celebrating our volunteers who mean so much to us. We are so deeply grateful for the incredible people embrace our passion for sharing the joy and power of reading all year long. It truly takes our whole community to support our children!

If you are interested in finding out more about being a volunteer, we have lots of information on our website. Join us as a tutor – it is a commitment of only an hour a week.

Huge thanks to all our volunteers who come to help all year long. You are building an incredible community of readers. Thank you!

Mayor Justin Elicker's visit to CPEN

On March 11, in recognition of National Reading Month, we were thrilled to welcome Mayor, Justin Elicker, for a visit to one of our New Haven Tutoring Initiative (NHTI) locations. Mayor Elicker joined students at the **Community Placemaking Engagement Network (CPEN)** and read with students participating in the program. We are so grateful for Mayor Elicker's support.



Established in 2023, the New Haven Tutoring Initiative (NHTI) is a collaborative effort to address low reading and math skills in New Haven students from Kindergarten through 8th grade.

As the Literacy Lead Organization, New Haven Reads trains and coaches staff and volunteers in a version of our tutoring program at 12 community partner programs. The NHTI provides reading support to hundreds of New Haven students every week. We recently provided testimony before the New Haven Board of Alders Finance Committee as they consider the next budget.

Our Bishop Woods Students are Big Wigs!



Our Bishop Woods students recently celebrated their reading achievements with a Big Wig Bash! The party theme was based on the book “A Pig and his Wig” that everyone had read. Students celebrated with cake and certificates of achievement. Their parents and volunteer tutors joined in the fun too!

One of our Bishop Woods parents, Daniel M. told us, “Thank you for this program! Covid really affected Mariah’s reading but since we put her in the (NHR) program, she has drastically improved and her reading has gone up three levels. We are very proud!”

We are all proud of how our students are working so hard and making such great strides!

Volunteer Spotlight: Meet Karen P.

Four years after joining the Foster Grandparent program and choosing New Haven Reads, volunteer Karen Person, is still a big fan of NHR! **“The children, the staff, and the families keep me coming back. You have the best program!”**

At Science Park, Karen works with several students and enjoys their weekly sessions. Being a tutor has meant that she has had the opportunity to learn too. She has attended the tutor trainings and seminars offered to tutors and this has helped her support her students.



She shared with us, “I had a student say to me one day, ‘Thank you for taking your time with me and helping me.’ That’s when **I realized how much it matters to my student for me to be there for them.** Now my biggest goal is to instill confidence in my students.”

We are so grateful to have Karen and over 370 other amazing tutors working with our students every week. New Haven Reads couldn’t have so much success without this incredible community effort. If you want to join NHR as a tutor, **find out more on our website.**

Did you see New Haven Reads in the Parade?



New Haven Reads was in the Greater New Haven St. Patrick's Day Parade!

New Haven Reads was deeply honored to be named the winners of the 2025 Cornelius Driscoll Award for Public Service by the Parade Committee. Some of our families and tutors joined us to march in the parade. It was a fantastic experience!

This was our fourth year in the Parade Family Fun Zone on the New Haven Green. We gave away over 500 books to children who came by. This was an amazing opportunity to build home libraries in our community!

Our Outreach Director, Fernanda Franco also had the opportunity to appear on WTNH Channel 8 to talk about NHR and our partnership with the Parade.



Coming soon: The Great Give!

Our Great Give proceeds will support our summer Kindergarten Camp. This 4-week morning camp is free for all of the 25 participants.

Our goal for this literacy-focused camp is **to build on the skills learned in Kindergarten, prevent summer slide, and ensure these students are successful from day one of first grade.**

Studies show the importance of early interventions to support early readers with foundational skills. Your Great Give support will help these rising first graders to get set for the new school year. **You can schedule your gift from May 2 or you can give during the giving event starting at 8am on May 7!**



Support our Kindergarten Literacy Summer Camp!



NHR Reading Comprehension for Adolescents



New Haven Reads had the pleasure of hosting Dr. Margie Gillis, founder and president of Literacy How, Incorporated, a non-profit organization that provides professional learning opportunities and coaching for educators on how best to implement evidence-based practices in the classroom. We had a full house of tutors and staff learning how to help our older students thrive.

Our Education Director, Hayley said of the training, “What an absolute gift it was to welcome such an expert in the field into our space for this workshop. Margie’s extensive experience and endless knowledge helped our volunteers not only build their toolkits to support our older students, but also build confidence in themselves as tutors.” We always love when Dr. Gillis comes to New Haven Reads!

NHR Spring Numbers

Provided one-on-one tutoring and enrichment clubs for **396** students at **5** locations for over **520** hours of programs every week.

Thank you to over **370** volunteers who support our students every week!

Supported **27** Pre-K and Kindergarten students small group lessons with a Structured Literacy curriculum.

We distributed almost **6,000** books in March! Since July, we have distributed over **57,000** books to build home libraries.



Thank you to everyone who supports
New Haven Reads - we appreciate you!
Keep in touch by following us!



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