

## Building Home and Classroom Libraries - Thanks to Book Bridge!

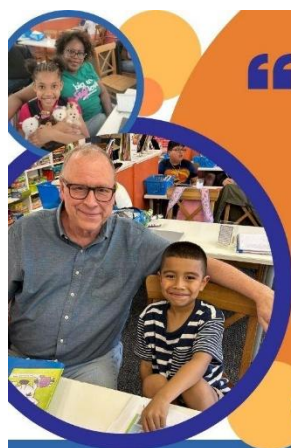


Last year, we created Book Bridge – a reverse field trip program to bring books and activities to local classrooms. Teachers told us how disappointed their students were because they were unable to visit NHR on a field trip due to reduced funds for buses. In 2023-24, we served 23 classrooms in both November and April. The program was a huge success!

We are so pleased to report that Book Bridge is back this fall and it has grown to 35 classrooms in New Haven, West Haven and Hamden! Teachers receive 3 gently used books for each student plus brand new books to read to their classes and keep in their classroom libraries. Our Book Bridge deliveries will continue over the next few weeks and we will return to each classroom again in the spring.

This program has been a great resource for local teachers and is helping to build home libraries for students across the area. **One Kindergarten teacher told us, "I think this program is wonderful! My students were all so excited to be able to pick out the books they were interested in!"**


We are grateful to the funders for this program, The Steven and Alexandra Cohen Foundation and The Eder Family Foundation.



**“** New Haven Reads is the best! Being part of a young person's reading journey feels meaningful. **”**

- NHR TUTOR

**Volunteer today at**

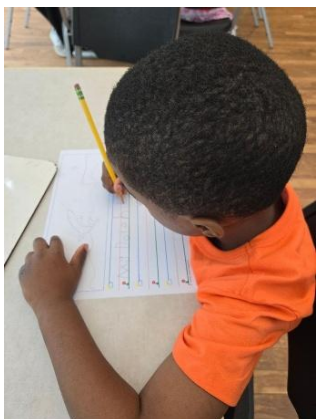
 New Haven  
**READS**

**Do you have  
1 hour a week  
to be a volunteer tutor?**

**We have 200 students on our  
waiting list.**

**Volunteer with NHR and make a  
lifelong impact on a local student.  
[Click here to find out more or visit  
our website.](#)**

## NHR is expanding our reach with programs in two new schools!



As the Lead Literacy Organization for the New Haven Tutoring Initiative (NHTI), New Haven Reads has the privilege of working with 15 community partners and schools to empower our community's children with critical reading skills – the skills they will need as they progress through school and into their future careers.

We currently have 368 NHTI students who are participating, either through our partner organizations or schools. **We added two new schools this fall – the Barack H. Obama Magnet University School and Lincoln-Bassett Community School – creating opportunities for access for new students.**

Last year, NHTI students showed significant increases on all areas of word recognition and decoding between fall and spring testing, with 97% of students improving in at least one area of literacy. New Haven Reads is proud to be a part of this tremendous collaborative effort. Together we are building a community of students who are empowered to be successful.

**Find out more about NHTI and volunteer on our website!**

## A Special Panel Event with Kareem Weaver

On October 21, 2025, New Haven Reads partnered with several other local organizations to host Education Activist, Kareem Weaver, at the Friends Center for Children.

Moderated by Steven Hernández, the Executive Director of ConnCAN, a panel joined Kareem on stage to show clips of [The Right to Read](#) documentary film and discuss the literacy challenges facing local students.

The panel included New Haven Public Schools Superintendent, Dr. Madeline Negrón, Dori Dumas, President of the Greater New Haven NAACP chapter, and CT State Treasurer, Erick Russell.

A huge thank you to the community partners, who made this wonderful evening possible: Boundless Literacy, FaithActs, Friends Center for Children, Greater New Haven NAACP, Literacy How, NewAlliance Foundation, New Haven Reads, Read to Grow, and The Reading League of Connecticut.



*Right to Read Panel Photography: Ian Christmann*

## Rep. Toni Walker's Visit to NHR



New Haven Reads was pleased to welcome State Representative Toni Walker to our Bristol Street location earlier this fall.

We enjoyed the opportunity to share our latest student assessment results and talk about how both our Book Bank and one-on-one tutoring programs are supporting our students and families and meeting the needs in our community.

**Thank you Rep. Walker and all of our legislators for all your work to support our community!**

## Did you know that New Haven Reads will be 25 years old in 2026?

To mark this very important milestone, we will be having a special celebration on World Book Day – April 23, 2026. Stay tuned for more information!

If you are interested in finding out more about sponsoring our event, please contact [Cmanuck@newhavenreads.org](mailto:Cmanuck@newhavenreads.org)



## NHR by the Numbers

Provided one-on-one tutoring for **360** students at **7** locations for over **500** hours of programs weekly.

Thank you to over **360** volunteers who support our students every week!

Supported **14** Pre-K and Kindergarten Program students twice in small group classes.

In October, we distributed **6,777** books to build home libraries.





## Check out some photos from one of our locations - our partnership with Elm City Communities, the Housing Authority of the City of New Haven!



Our impact  
*starts with you:*

25 years

100% literacy gains

10,000 students

14,000 volunteers

3 million free books



Thank you to everyone  
who supports  
New Haven Reads  
- we appreciate you!

Keep in touch by following us!



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