



Annual
Report

2024/25



Thank you for being a partner in literacy. Together we are improving educational outcomes and creating a catalyst for positive social change for our community's youth.

Founded to share the joy and power of reading, New Haven Reads partners with the community to provide free one-on-one tutoring, educational family support, and a book bank to empower aspiring readers to master the literacy skills needed to thrive in school and life.



Highlights



100% of students tested increased their literacy scores from fall 2024 to spring 2025. Our students are flourishing with the dedicated support of over 370 volunteer tutors.



We served 407 students every week across our programs at five locations.



Our Book Bank provided 80 field trips to area schools and distributed 79,000 books into the community.



Our new Book Bridge Program supported teachers unable to come to our Book Bank for field trips. We delivered books for students and new books and activities for teachers to 23 classrooms twice during the school year.



As the Literacy Lead for the New Haven Tutoring Initiative, NHR partnered with 12 community organizations and over 600 students across New Haven delivering literacy interventions.



We opened a new, sixth location as a pilot with Elm City Communities, The Housing Authority of New Haven.

THE NEED FOR NHR:

Connecticut continues to have one of the largest achievement gaps in the nation between low-income students and their peers.

New Haven, like many urban areas, faces challenges related to poverty and its impact on educational outcomes. Only 16% of New Haven third graders are reading at grade level.

Over one third of local children live in poverty and a further 16% of families struggle to meet basic needs – creating a huge need for NHR's free literacy programs and family support.

Programs



Book Bank

Over 2.9 million books distributed since 2001

We gave out almost 80,000 books in 2024-25.



Did you know that NHR students choose at least two brand new books at the end of every session (June, August and December) to take home and keep? This is an exciting time for our students who love to build their home libraries. Our site staff ensures that students have a lot of different genres and authors from which to choose.

We created Book Bridge to meet the needs of local classrooms with reduced access to field trips.

When teachers shared how disappointed they were when they were unable to secure bus transportation for their annual free field trips to New Haven Reads, we decided to bring the field trip to them! Our Book Bridge Program delivers gently used books for students to go "book shopping" in their own classrooms. Teachers also receive three new books for their classroom libraries and a set of student activities.



We hosted 80 school field trips for over 1,300 schoolchildren.

Students listen to stories and go "shopping" for five books each in the Book Bank.

"My students loved picking out books to take home. They were so excited! I think that this program is great - thank you!"

*- SECOND GRADE TEACHER,
NEW HAVEN*



Our largest program: one-on-one literacy tutoring

382 students every week with
42% attending twice a week or more

550 hours of tutoring
every week

—Huge thanks to —
over 370 dedicated
community volunteer tutors

Our students' hard work is paying off!

- **100%** of students tested improved their literacy scores
- The average student score growth in 7 months is almost **one grade level**
- More than **two thirds** of students increased their scores in all five sections of the test.

Reading Changes Lives



When second grader Lathan did not make the expected reading gains after a year of tutoring, school support and working with his parents at home, he joined the NHR RISE program. RISE targets students requiring additional, more intensive support. Everything began to change for Lathan. Both his confidence and love for reading grew. In May 2025, Lathan achieved the highest score in his grade at his school literacy assessment! His younger brother, Miles, participated in the NHR Kindergarten Program.

“Lathan and his brother are just constantly reading. We’ll be in a store, in the airport, they are both just reading, reading to each other, reading to random people. Their confidence has skyrocketed. The RISE Program changed their life.”

—ALIYA, LATHAN’S MOM

Our Students' Success

Our students make us so proud! 100% of our students increased their literacy scores from October 2024 to May 2025. The average growth for all our students who took the test was almost a whole grade level! These tremendous results are a testament to the incredible efforts of our students and their dedicated tutors.

Once students complete the pre-test in October, they receive individualized intervention packets to work on their areas of literacy need in addition to their regular tutoring program. They are retested in May. Our goal is to ensure that students master the skills to make them skilled and confident readers.

“As a mom, there’s nothing more important than seeing your child thrive and that’s exactly what New Haven Reads made possible for my son. When he first started, he was reading several grade levels behind and really struggled with confidence. Today, he’s reading above grade level and, maybe even more importantly, he actually enjoys reading.

He picks up books on his own now, without being asked, and that’s something I never thought I’d see. New Haven Reads gave him the confidence to believe in himself, and for that, I’m forever grateful.”

— NHR PARENT



New Haven Reads is the Lead Literacy Organization in the New Haven Tutoring Initiative (NHTI)



Providing literacy interventions across the City of New Haven

What we do

Established in 2023, the New Haven Tutoring Initiative (NHTI) is a collaborative, citywide effort to address low reading and math skills in New Haven students from Kindergarten through 8th grade. As the Lead Literacy Organization, New Haven Reads trains and coaches staff and volunteers in a version of our tutoring program at participating after school programs.

The New Haven Tutoring Initiative is making a citywide impact by expanding access to quality literacy support. Through strong partnerships, NHTI equips community organizations with the tools and training they need to help students succeed. This work is boosting student progress while empowering families and communities. The tireless dedication and collaboration of our partners are driving lasting change throughout our city.

— CHARLENE CUA, CO-LITERACY LEAD DIRECTOR



2024-25 NUMBERS

677 students

12 partners

22 sites in New Haven

90% of students improved their decoding and word recognition skills

ALONG WITH NEW HAVEN READS, THE NHTI COMMUNITY PARTNERS IN LITERACY ARE:

Auntie Rose Childcare Development Center
Boys and Girls Club
Bridges of Hope
CPEN
Elephant in the Room
Inspired Communities
IRIS
LEAP
Life Kingdom Outreach Ministries
New Haven YMCA
Solar Youth
Upon This Rock

A tremendous impact

Almost two thirds of students improved their decoding and word recognition skills by at least 25%. The program has worked with over 1,000 area students since it began in 2023. Read a couple of success stories below.



NHTI focuses on making learning fun, engaging, and effective. At one of our newest partners, Elephant in the Room, Gio's parent was initially reluctant to sign him up in case it was too much after a long school day. Gio was excited to give the program a try and is now one of the most engaged students. He never wants to miss a session! His NHTI experience is enhancing his learning and achievements. Plus, he is better prepared for his next grade.

Juana's parents explained that because they only speak Spanish at home, they see the program as an enormous blessing. Helping her with her reading and writing skills has given her more confidence at school. Her teachers have noted a great improvement in her skills and reports that she is doing really well.

"We are so grateful. This program is such a gift!"

— JUANA'S DAD

A strong community is built on a foundation of literacy

Working together, we are cultivating a thriving reading community



New Housing Authority Partnership

NHR is delighted to have started a new partnership with Elm City Communities (ECC), the Housing Authority of New Haven. This new, sixth location is at one of their West Rock Housing Authority properties and serves resident students. Our NHR staff works with the ECC Teacher in Residence to provide NHR literacy programs.

"This partnership with ECC is a wonderful opportunity to reach students who may not be able to access our other locations. This also removes the transport burden from parents. We are excited to watch this new location grow!"

**—HAYLEY HERRINGTON,
NHR EDUCATION DIRECTOR**

Big Wig Celebration at Bishop Woods School

Our Bishop Woods location celebrated their students' reading achievements with a "Big Wig Bash"! The party theme was based on the book "A Pig and his Wig" that everyone had read. This gathering was an opportunity for parents and tutors to join with students to recognize the great progress students have made.

"My daughter's learning was interrupted by Covid when she was in Kindergarten and she really struggled with reading. For NHR to work so hard, and for free, to get her back on track, we will forever be grateful."

— ELIANA'S MOM



Mural Dedication

Bristol Street location now has a colorful new mural identifying our building and enhancing our location facing Scantlebury Park. We worked with RiseUP For Arts and the artist Candyce "Marsh" John to represent the joy and power of reading. The mural was dedicated at a community event in December 2024. Marsh shared that her design represents the potential and the multiple opportunities opened up to children from reading.



Because of you, our aspiring readers are meeting and exceeding their goals. Thank you!

As a donor, you enable NHR to transform lives.

Thank you for your generous support.

July 2024 to June 2025

\$25,000 and up

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Because of space constraints,
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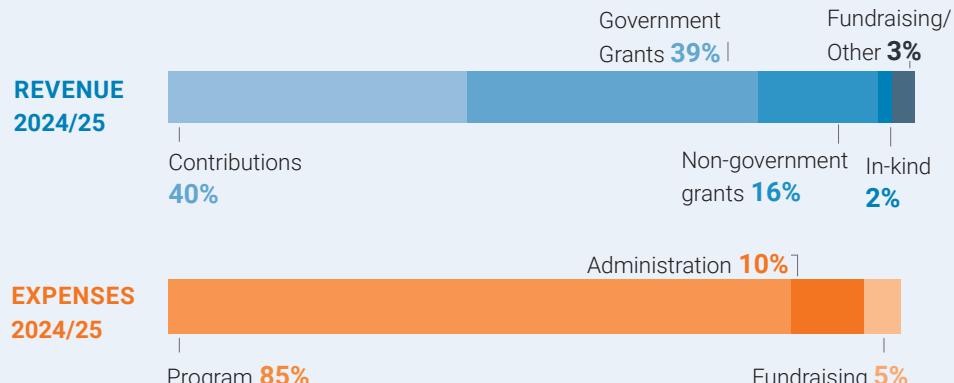
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 Please excuse any mistakes
 and please let us know.

**Thank you to our staff and
 all of our volunteers who work
 so hard to build a community
 of readers.**



2024-2025 FINANCIALS

Annual cost to run New Haven Reads: \$1,599,016



All programs offered free of charge to participants

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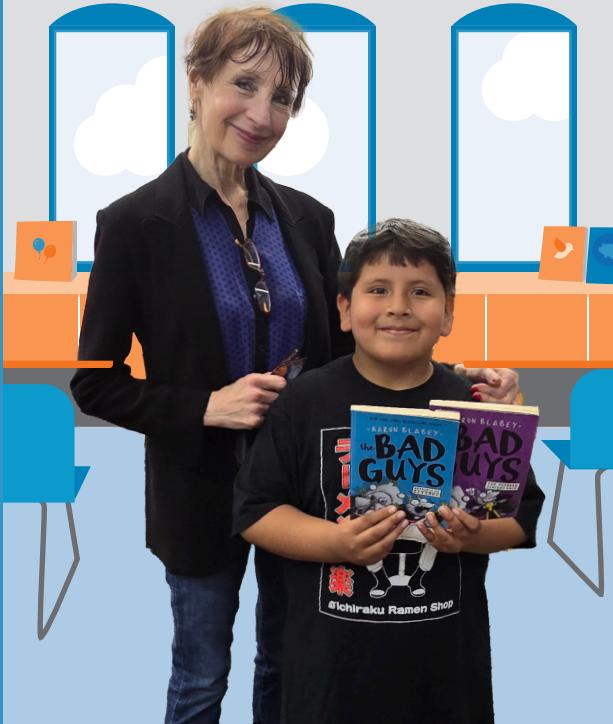


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