

## Everything starts with literacy. Our Impact Starts With YOU!

**NHR  
in 2025**

**461**  
students

**16,918**  
program  
hours

**400+**  
volunteers

**85,000**  
books

### Thank you for your support in 2025

cognitive development communication earnings potential educational opportunities social cohesion financial literacy democracy career opportunities mindfulness engage **empowerment** skills rates reduced depression gender equality community involvement happiness equity crime coping skills positive mental health stress poverty quality of life empowerment lower anxiety critical thinking success



***Everything starts with literacy.***

-Kareem Weaver

Thanks to your support, we **had an incredible year of expansion**, growing our programs with new locations in local schools and the New Haven Housing Authority.

We are so proud of our students - **100% improved their literacy scores** and on average, students improved by one grade level in seven months.

**Our Book Bank was busy** hosting field trips for 1,399 local students from 85 classrooms. For those classes that couldn't come to NHR, we delivered the books to them serving an additional 1,220 students from 53 unique classrooms.

**Perhaps you saw us out and about in the community?** Our Outreach team attended over 50 events in our community spreading the word, recruiting volunteers, and distributing books.

Thank you to everyone who contributed so generously to our annual appeal. We had a hugely successful campaign which will allow us to serve even more children in 2026.

**Whether you make a financial contribution, donate your time, or spread the word about our mission (or all three!), we are grateful. Together we are building a vibrant community of readers. Thank you!**



## Volunteer and make a lifelong impact on a child with just 1 hour a week

We have almost 200 students on our waiting list. We provide all the training and ongoing support that you need.

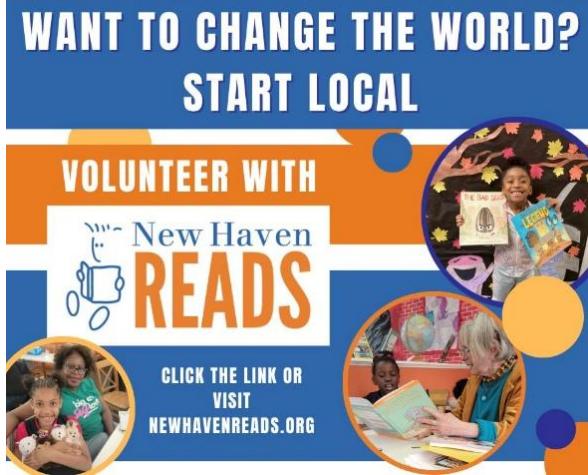
Find out more on our website.

**WANT TO CHANGE THE WORLD?  
START LOCAL**

**VOLUNTEER WITH**

**New Haven READS**

CLICK THE LINK OR  
VISIT  
[NEWHAVENREADS.ORG](http://NEWHAVENREADS.ORG)



## Our volunteers are transforming outcomes for students in our programs.



You can find Elaine and her student, third grader Jaynel, working together at their assigned desk every Thursday afternoon.

Finding an engaging volunteer opportunity was a priority for Elaine and she was excited to discover New Haven Reads. She became a volunteer tutor in September 2025 and told us, "This ended up being a great fit for me. I thought I would enjoy this type of volunteer work and I really do."

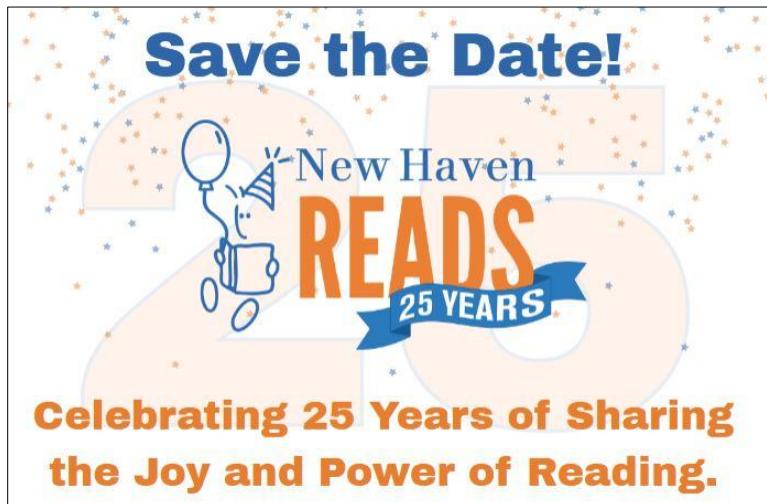
Working one-on-one has been enjoyable for Elaine. She communicates well with the site team both in person and through the session notes to keep her student's program on track.

As they have been following Jaynel's individualized program, Elaine has also focused on getting to know him and building a strong relationship. When she discovered that Jaynel was reading the new Diary of a Wimpy Kid book in silent reading at school, Elaine started reading it too. She finds this is a great opportunity to connect more and talk about the book during their sessions.

Thanks to Elaine and over 370 other community volunteers, NHR is able to build a community of readers. **Find out more about volunteering with us!** The commitment is only one hour a week!



**NHR is celebrating a special milestone this year - 25 years!**



**Thursday, April 23, 2026**

**6:00PM to 8:30PM**

**Yale School of Management**

**164 Whitney Ave., New Haven**

Interested in finding out more or  
 sponsoring our event?  
 Please visit our website.

From our modest beginnings as a New Haven Mayoral Initiative, we are now an integral part of the broader Greater New Haven community.

Since 2001, we have distributed over **3 million books** to build home libraries. We have **served over 10,000 students** thanks to the support of **14,000 community volunteers**.

**Please join us at our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration on World Book Day, April 23!**

## **The Power of One: Spotlighting a Dedicated Monthly Donor**



The passing of New Haven Reads' founder Chris Alexander in 2011 helped New Haven Reads' monthly sustaining donor Doug Hausladen realize how truly possible it is to have an impact on one's community.

**Doug acknowledges, "Literacy is such a foundational issue, and the need isn't going away any time soon."**

Learning about alarming rates of local illiteracy while working for the New Haven transportation system, Doug saw firsthand the significant literacy challenges faced by our community with many adults who can't read parking signs or engage with written words in society or work. He told us, **"What has kept me as a sustaining donor for over a decade is that this work truly matters, is deeply local, and deeply needed."**

Supporting New Haven Reads as a sustaining monthly donor provides Doug with the necessary stability in his personal budget while making an impact. Huge thanks to Doug and all of our other sustaining donors who help us maintain our programs across the year!

## Chapter Book Challenge - motivating students to read more



A firm NHR favorite, the Chapter Book Challenge encourages students to read more text to expand their reading fluency and stamina. Students develop more focus and concentration while building their reading confidence, vocabulary, and background knowledge.

Students receive tickets for reading based on the pages they read, both at NHR and at home. They can allocate those tickets to a drawing for a selection of engaging prizes, including board games, books, and art supplies. The more the students read, the more tickets they receive so they have more chances to win the prize they would like. We adapt the challenge to accommodate all reading levels.

Tutors support their students and encourage students to discuss their books and write about them, extending the learning experience. Our Willow Street students recently completed *the most recent Challenge and were excited to get the results!*

Scan to learn more about volunteering, our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary event, and to stay up to date with  
New Haven Reads!



Thank you to everyone for your support of New  
Haven Reads  
- we appreciate you!  
Keep in touch by following us!

