

NHTI Kicks Off Summer Programming

On Thursday, June 25, the New Haven Tutoring Initiative (NHTI) kicked off summer programming with a fun-filled event at College Woods Park. NHTI students and their families joined us for storytelling by Laconia Therrio, music and a magic show from Matt Matthews Magic!



Attendees were also excited to receive free books from the NHR Book Bank, wooden projects from the [Eli Whitney Museum and Workshop](#), raffle prizes, and food from [BurgerWay](#). Christine Kirschenbaum, NHTI Co-Literacy Director, shared "What a great summer kickoff! It was a wonderful event to bring the community together to get the kids excited about learning throughout the summer."

As the Literacy Lead Organization for NHTI, New Haven Reads will partner with organizations throughout the community. **Together, we will work to build students' foundational skills and prevent summer learning loss**, the decline in academic knowledge that all students experience during summer break so students are ready for their next school year in September.

The NHTI program is a valuable three-year, federally-funded initiative with the mission of improving reading and math skills among New Haven students. This year, NHR worked with 12 community partners to provide literacy programming to over 700 students from across New Haven. [Find out more about NHTI here.](#)



We were so excited to participate in the Freddy Fixer Parade again this June!

We gave away 1,200 books and were thrilled to see so many of our current families and alumni along the way!

NHR by the Numbers

- Provided one-on-one tutoring and enrichment clubs for **437** students at **7** locations for over **553** hours of programs weekly.
- Thank you to over **370** volunteers who support our students every week!
- Supported **20** Pre-K and Kindergarten students small group lessons with a Structured Literacy curriculum.



Quite a Year for the Book Bank!

This year the **Book Bank** distributed more than **103,000** free books into our community to build home libraries across our region!

This year the Book Bank welcomed 85 school **field trips** throughout the school year. During field trips, each student selects 5 free books to bring home for their home library, and students are read stories by volunteers. Our **Book Bridge** "reverse field trip" program brings the field trips to the classrooms. This year we had a 40% growth in our Book Bridge program over last year, visiting 35 classrooms in both the fall and the spring, and delivering free books for students and brand new books for classroom libraries.



Thank you to those who support the Book Bank and helped make this accomplishment possible!

Our free Book Bank is open to the public year-round. Please call 203-752-1923 with any questions or to donate your gently used books.



Sustaining Donor Spotlight: Lauren Budenholzer

As a volunteer tutor, Lauren discovered, embraced, and cherished the community within New Haven Reads, observing firsthand its positive impact on the local youth and community.

To expand her impact beyond what she could give as a tutor, Lauren established recurring donations to provide New Haven Reads with sustained, monthly support for our mission. Lauren found a **recurring donation was an easy way to contribute and make a difference.**

Lauren no longer lives in New Haven, yet she continues to support New Haven Reads because **she's seen firsthand how all donations directly impact our students in a measurable way.** She appreciates that NHR gives her "a meaningful connection to the New Haven community. Being a donor helps me feel like I can still be contributing to the community even though I'm no longer physically there."

New Haven Reads is highly appreciative of Lauren and all our sustaining donors who support us, no matter where they live! Visit our [website](#) to learn more about how to support NHR.

**Thank you to everyone who supports New Haven Reads.
Our impact starts with you!**