

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.

After teachers shared their disappointment about being unable to secure bus transportation funding 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 receive tutoring every week

42% of tutoring students attend 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.



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.

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

"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

Carol Bailey and Laurie Desmet
City of New Haven
Community Foundation for
Greater New Haven
NewAlliance Foundation
Fovea Foundation
Roger Ibbotson
New Haven Tutoring Initiative
The Pincus Family Foundation
Seedlings Foundation
Edward and Jenny Snyder
State of CT Department
of Education
Steven & Alexandra Cohen
Foundation

\$10,000 to \$24,999

Bruce Alexander
Anonymous
Ethel and Eric Berger
Echlin Foundation
Andy and Eileen Eder
Robertson Foundation
Deborah Freedman and
Ben Ledbetter
Garden Homes Fund
Joseph Goldberg
Baupost Group
Dorothy Hurt
Lewis G. Schaeneman Jr.
Foundation, Inc.
Alex Kleiner and Alexandra Daum
Jim and Kirsten Levinsohn
Jerry and Roslyn Meyer
Daniel and Sharon Milikowsky
Marc and Jodi Schneider
The Scripps Family Fund
Education and the Arts
UBS
Stuart Warner and David Paltiel
Women's Seamen's Friend
Society of CT

\$5,000 to \$9,999

Brian Alden and
Mary Hartford Alden
Anonymous
Carlson Family Foundation
Amy Chivetta and Dan Bohac
Charley Ellis and Linda Lorimer
Caroline Hendel and
John Wysolmerski
Intrepid Philanthropy Foundation
Dean Johnson and Maurie McInnis
The Liana Foundation
Stanley and Annie McChrystal
Ellen Paltiel and Bill Kelly
The Skye Foundation
SMPS Family Fund
The Study at Yale
United Way of Greater New Haven

\$2,500 to \$4,999

Christina and Seth Alexander
Richard and Alice Baxter
Ruth Beardsley and Tom Sansone
Bristle Cone Pine Foundation
Annette and Kerwin Charles
Joseph Davola and
Melinda Wiswell
Will and Anne Emmet
Gray Organschi Architecture
Halloran & Sage LLC
Charlie Hatton
John Patrick Flanagan Foundation
Robert Riedy
Abigail Roth and Lee Stump
Paul and Martha Samuelson
Simple Generosity
Trinity Church on the Green
Yale Center for British Art
George Zdru

\$1,000 to \$2,499

Anonymous (5)
Danielle Antin-Ozerkis and
Eric Baum
James and Mary Barnes
Ray Baldelli
JoAnne Burger and Michael Caplan
Heather Calabrese
Jennifer Caruso and Oscar Suarez
Christian Tabernacle Baptist
Church
Meghan Chvirko
Claire's Corner Copia
Constance Clement
Guy D'Agunno and Karen Binelli
Daniel Fleschner
Andrew Forsyth and
Josh Goodbaum
Franklin Philanthropic Foundation
Jennifer and Alan Friedman
Frontier Communications
Community Services Fund
Bob Gelbach
Susan Gibbons
Janet Gipson
Carol Gjellstad
Grace G. Bright Fund
John Hill and Timothy Young
Robin and Mark Hochstrasser
Derek Jones
John Kim and Eileen Ohnell Kim
Cindy Kissin and John Jacobson
Jacqueline Koral
Miles and Elizabeth Lasater
Itamar Lebowitz
April and John Levinsohn
Rick and Jane Levin
Tiffany Lin
Jackie and Keith Lorch
Louis F. & Mary A. Tagliatela
Foundation
Jane Mackie and Joe Farrell
Donald Margulies and Lynn Street

Matthew Mendelsohn and
Lauren Martini
Eric and Jennifer Munro
Stephen and Victoria Murphy
Nellie Mae Education Foundation
New Haven Elks Lodge No. 25
David Newton
Noble Wealth Advisors
Steven Podos and Judy Chevalier
Benjamin Polak and
Stefanie Markovits
Alec Purves
Cathy Raduns and Steven
Silverstein
Susan Riggs
Bob Saul
Jane Snell Copes
Starbucks Foundation :
Neighborhood Grants Fund
Wilma and William Summers
L. Suzio York Hill Companies
Swords Into Plowshares
Honey & Candles
Mary Lou Winnick
Claude Zeller

\$500 to \$999

Ann Anderson
Anonymous
Tom Beggins and Anne Hartford
Roux Bodi
Deborah Brin
Guido and Anne Calabresi
Belinda Chan
Christopher and Anne Chivetta
Norman Cole
Kathleen Comeau
Dennis Curtis and Judith Resnik
Robert and Priscilla Dannies
Denise Dukette
Michael and Ilona Emmerth
Ray Fair
Faxon Law New Haven Road Race
Harvey and Susan Feinberg
James Forman
Robert Frank and
Raffaella Zanuttini
Patricia and Nathan Garland
Marjorie and Frank Gillis
Al and Susan Gobel
Jacqueline Goldsby
Jacob Hacker and Oona Hathaway
The Hagani Foundation
Gregory Huber and Caitlin Simon
Christopher and Alison Illick
The Israel & Adele Gordon Fund
Kathryn and Kyle Jensen
Julie and David Kelsey
Susan Kerley
Gretchen and Charles Kingsley
Peter and Christine Kirschenbaum
Harold Koh and Mary-Christy Fisher

Joel Laitman and Annette Rotter
Laitman
Jean and Nick Lamont
Ellen Lautenberg and Douglas
Hendel
Emma Ledbetter and Mark Iscoe
Nadine Levy
Robert Lyons, Jr. and Carol Lyons
Jason Macaluso
Ann Maley
Mason Inc
Bill Massa
Sue McDonald and Corey Stone
Beth Miller
Jeremy and Amanda Moeller
Bonnie Moskowitz
Barry Nalebuff and Helen Kauder
Nappo Wealth Advisory Group
Jill Nathanson and David Margolis
OR&L
Arani and Brit Osler
Allegra Pankratz
Tanya Paul
Pebbles Toys and Gifts
Nick and Sara Perkins
Edward Perten and Judy Aub
Halina Platt
Celia Ponvert
Ken and Leslie Pucker
Susanne Roberts
Khaleah and Kenneth Robinson
John Ryan
Nina Scherago
Alexa and Christian Schlieker
Stephen Schwed and
Diane Goldsmith
Robert Shields
Sarah Shrewsbury
Ellen Shuman and Douglas Rae
Ronald Smith
Shelagh Smith
Stephanie Teplin
Linda Winkler and Don Herzog
Stephen and Rachel Wizner
Yale-New Haven Health
Yale University, Office of New
Haven & State Affairs

\$250 to \$499

Denise Acampora
Myles Alderman
Bob and Mary Beth Congdon
Anonymous (4)
Maureen Armstrong
Paul and Joanne Bailey
Stephen and Rebecca Baldassarri
Rachel Bashevkin
David and Kirsten Bechtel
Monica Becker and Edieal Pinker
Shirley and Howard Benjamin
Jon Benjamin
Harriet and Johannes Bergmann
Kymbel Branch

Jenny Braun
Peter Brooks
Jem Burch
Burt Law Offices
Susan Butts
Carlos and Rita Camin
Rosemary Cassidy
Sonali Chakravarti
Chestnut Fine Foods & Confections
Renee Chotiner and Stuart Gardner
Jan Clarke
Joshua Clark
Elizabeth and Jeremiah Coffey
Jane Condon and Ken Bartels
Claire Criscuolo
Stirling Davenport
Matt and Lisa Desfosses
Margaret and Michael Desmet
Christopher P Dixon and
Rachel Adam
Eric Emanuelson and
Margaret Moreau
Mark and Colleen Entenman
Laura Ferry
Bernadette and Elizabeth Forget
Dara Gibbs
Marianna Grossman
Henry Abbott Technical High
School
Hopkins School
Fritz Horstman
Shelby and Robert Irwin
Julianne and Titus Kaphar
Kristi, Kevin and Daryll Mattingly
Jon Kirby
The Kiyama School
Polly LaBarre and Zeb Esselstyn
Susan Laity
Rob and JoAnn Leavitt
Rick and Debbie Lifton
Samantha Liu
Henry Lord
Mark and Gretchen Lytle
Katherine Mackey
Charlie and Sharon Mason
Janice Naegele
Holly and William Nardini
New Haven Hiring Initiative
Bruce Peabody
Alan Plattus and Nancy Berliner
Isabel and Richard Rathbone
Jim and Dorie Reidy
Julie Reinshagen
Michele and William Rosa
Harold and Michal Rose
Nancy Ruddle
Luke and Xiaomin Sanford
Martha Schall Czaczkes and
Joshua Czaczkes
Ian Shapiro
Robert Shulman and Stephanie
Spangler
Betsy Sledge

Lauren Slingluff
Shawana Snell, Willis Harris,
Brooklyn Harris and Grant Harris
Lilia Snyder
TisBest Philanthropy
John Tully
Updike, Kelly & Spellacy LLC
Dean Vallas and Debra Pemstein
Rhonda Vegliante
Annette Wagner
Karla Wallace
John Ward
Melanie White
John and Virginia Wilkinson
Patricia Winer

\$100 to \$249
Aces Education Foundation
Melvin and Jennie Aden
Melinda Agsten
Loretta and J. Philip Smith
Patricia Anderson Rossi and
Dr. Robert King
Anonymous
Michael Appleby
Joshua Attridge
Judy and Stephen August
Eleanor Babbitt
Alison Barad
Candace Barrington and Mike Shea
Melissa Barton
Paul and Carole Bass
Donna and Bill Batsford
Timothy Bertaccini
Marcia Bickoff
Debbie Bird McCubbin
Phil Bleich
Nancy Bockstael
Douglas James and Kim Bohen
Jo-Ann Bonanno-Ferris
Alix Boyle and Joshua Copel
Samara Brock
Donald and Mary Brown
Anne Brueckner
Janet Brunwin
Lauren Budenholzer
Robert and Francine Caplan
Joe Cardozo
Pat Cartwright
Elizabeth Caspe and Aaron Singer
Katherine and Brad Castillo
Shirley Cavanagh
John Ciccolo and Sidney Phillips
Carol Clay Wiske and
Prescott Wiske
Inez and Harold Cohen
Deborah Coen
Ruth Coffey
Liza Comita
Susan Compton
Ellen Cordes and Henry Haskell
Joseph Costa and Elyse Nelson

John and Catherine Crawford
Diane Curtis
Kathy and Brad Czepiel
Clo and Stephen Davis
Andrea Deboer and Edward Downe
Susan DeSilver
Bonnie Doyle
Laurie Dray
Dunbar Hill School
David and Susan Durant
Catherine D'Vileskis
Judith A. Eisenberg
Liz Jonas and Tom Eisen
Steve and Amy Eppler-Epstein
Helena Estes
Charles Fabian
Stephanie Fitzgerald and Frank
Cochran
Dave Forman and Gilda Outremont
Deborah Fried and Kalman Watsky
John Gaddis and Toni Dorfman
Lucy Gellman
Thomas Geoffino
Robert Gillis
Jessica Gillooly
Carolyn Gladstone
Jim Glasser and Sharon Jaffe
Linda Goodman
Katelyn Green
Polly Halfkenny
Richard and Angelica Harter
Renee Harlow
Jeralea Hesse
Laetitia Hill
Emily Horning and David Zukowski
Robert and Carla Horwitz
Douglas Housladen
Sarah and Ping Hsieh
Karl Insogna
Alice and Michael Ivy
Leslie Jacobson
Ruth Johnson
Rhonda Johnson
Sam Julier
Peach Kander
Michael Kaplan and Susan Sawyer
Rick Karl
David and Stacey Katz
Janet Kazienko
Ilana Kelsey
Terri Kinney
Linda Klein
David Klineberg
Robert B. Knight
Seunghee Ko and Jiwoong Shin
Melissa Kops
Kevin Kromash
Leslie and Harlan Krumholz
Bret Kupfer
Penelope Laurans Fitzgerald
Jill Lauren
Gayle Logan

Martin and Ellen Looney
Lindalea Ludwick
Lauretta Lyons
Jean Madden
James and Kaye Maggart
Maria Markham and
Andrew Putnam
Carola Marte and Douglas Stein
Michelle and Charles Matouk
Edward Mattison
Tom and Jamie McCauley
Patricia McKinley
Alka Menon
Andrew and Susan Metrick
Jon and Andrea Miller
David and Elizabeth Monz
David Myers
Robert Narracci
Robert Nelson
Elana Nemerson
Nero Inc
New Haven Federation of
Retired Teachers
Sandra Nute-Aupi
Tim and Joan O'Neill
Natalie and Dwayne Palmer
Catherine Pamelard
Susan Papa and David Schatz
Huned and Zehra Patwa
Susan and Edward Phipps
Alex Pierpaoli
Steve and Lauren Pinzka
Ginny Pitzer and Jenny Paradis
Nicole Pollard
Elana Ponet
Siobhan Quinlan
Pamela Rakip
Faye and Asghar Rastegar
Florie Ricciuti
Thomas and Patricia Riley
Michael Rigsby and Richard Lalli
Diane and Louis Ritucci
Jill Savitt
Debra and Ted Schaffer
Richard and Nancy Silverman
Sara Smiley Smith and
Dean Hosgood
Tanya and Rick Smith
Howard Sommer and Linda
Waldman
Trevor Sorrells
James Sorrentino
Kirby and Sara Stafford
Barbara Stern
Ann and Brian Stiltner
Joanna Stuart
Pat Syvertsen
Denise and DonTerry
Lisa and David Totman
Valley Community Foundation
Cassie Watt
Shelli Weiler

Jenya Weinreb and Anton Bures
Lynda West
Nancy Whitney
Elizabeth and Steven Wilkinson
Jean Williams
Dianne Witte and Richard Ford
Mary Woolsey
Yale Dramatic Association
Joel Zackin and Celeste Suggs

In Kind Contributions
Yale University
Science Park Development
Corporation
Abrams Publishing
Aim and Arrow Group
Analysis Group
Cindy Kissin Consulting
Literacy How
The Study at Yale
Yale Printing and Publishing
Services
Yale School of Management
4Imprint
Claire's Corner Copia
Swords into Plowshares Honey
and Candles
CT Science Center
Garden Catering
IT Adventure Ropes Course
Shake Shack New Haven
Lake Compounce
Bombas Socks

Because of space constraints,
we are unable to print all
of the names. A full list is in
our website.

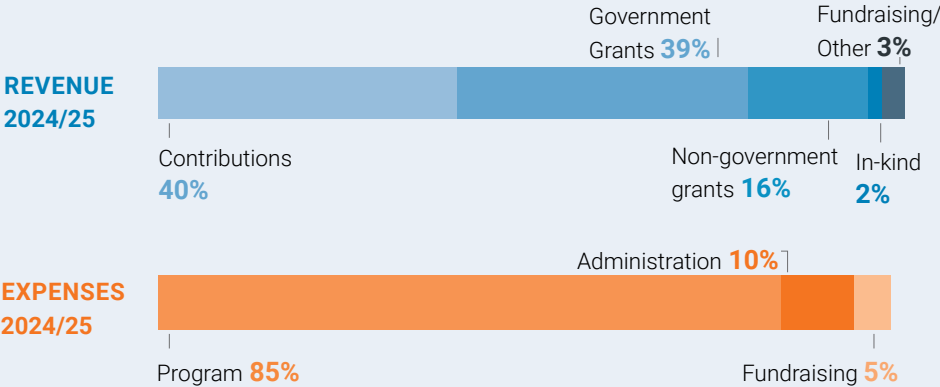
We made every effort to verify
the names and dollar amounts.
Please excuse any mistakes
and please let us know.

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

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Abrams Publishing
Analysis Group Inc.
Auntie Rose Childcare Development Ctr
Boys & Girls Clubs of Gtr. New Haven
Carlson Family Foundation
Chapel Haven
City of New Haven
Claire's Corner Copia
Community Foundation for Gtr. New Haven
CPEN
The Eder Family Foundation
Elm City Freddy Fixer Parade
Gtr. New Haven St. Patrick's Day Parade
Gtr. New Haven Youth Network
Inspired Communities
IRIS
LEAP New Haven
Lewis G. Schaeeneman, Jr. Foundation
NewAlliance Foundation
New Haven Board of Education
New Haven YMCA
Pincus Family Foundation
Science Park Development Corporation
Seedlings Foundation
SMPS Family Fund
Solar Youth
State of Connecticut
The Study at Yale
United Way of Greater New Haven
University of New Haven
Upon This Rock
Woman's Seamen's Friend Society of CT
Yale British Art Center
Yale University

BOARD MEMBERS 2024/25

Susan Riggs, President
Annette Charles, Vice President
Amy Chivetta, Treasurer
Oscar Suarez, Secretary
Ted Cohen
Janet Gipson
Dara Gibbs
Caroline Hendel
Alex Kleiner
Charlie Mason
Jodi Benjamin Schneider
Fallon Thomas
Karla Wallace
Sebastian Ward
Stuart G. Warner

Pete Goldsmith (Honorary Member)
Senator Gary Winfield (Honorary Member)
Kirsten Levinsohn (Ex Officio)



Photo Credits: Robin Buckley (Riverstone Images)
and New Haven Reads
Design: büro svenja
Printer: Yale Printing and Publishing Services

New Haven Reads
45 Bristol Street
New Haven, CT 06511
203-752-1923
www.newhavenreads.org