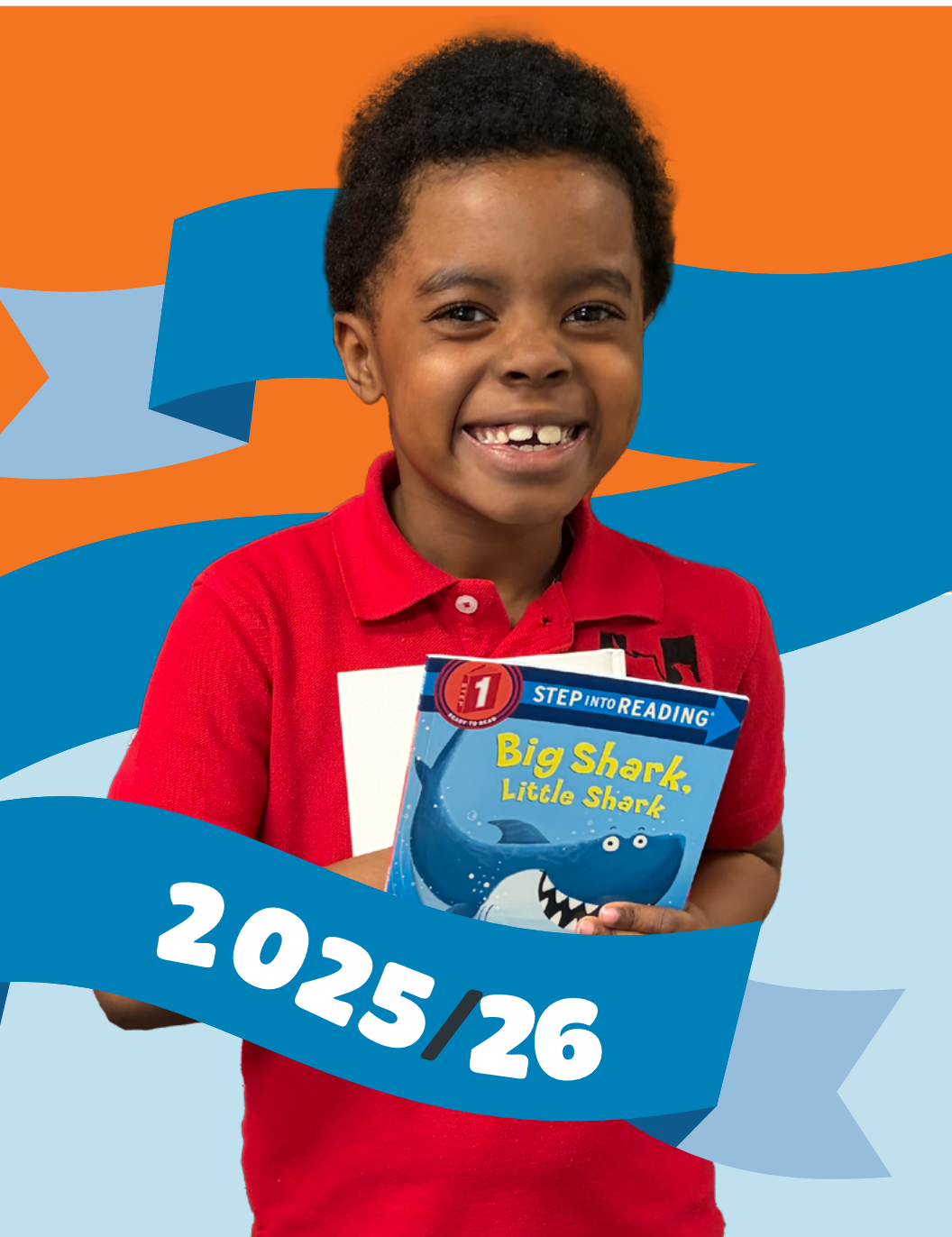




2025/26

**Our impact starts with you.
Together, we transform lives,
build brighter futures, and ensure
that every child in New Haven has the
opportunity to read, learn, and thrive.**

Since 2001

**3 million
books**
distributed
by NHR

**10,000
students**
served

**14,000
volunteers**
supported
NHR

*All programs offered
free of charge to participants*

Highlights



100% of students tested increased their literacy scores from fall 2025 to spring 2026.



Our students are flourishing with the dedicated **support of over 370 volunteer tutors**.



NHR celebrated 25 years of sharing the joy and power of reading.



We provided 14,420 program hours for 457 students across 7 locations.



Our Book Bank distributed 106,207 books into the community to build home libraries.



As the Literacy Lead for the New Haven Tutoring Initiative, **NHR worked with 8 community partners to deliver literacy interventions to 661 New Haven students.**

The ability to read is the foundation for lifelong learning

With roughly 1 in 3 children in New Haven living in poverty and over 80% of 3rd graders reading below grade level, like many urban areas, the city faces interconnected challenges that underscore the critical need for literacy support.

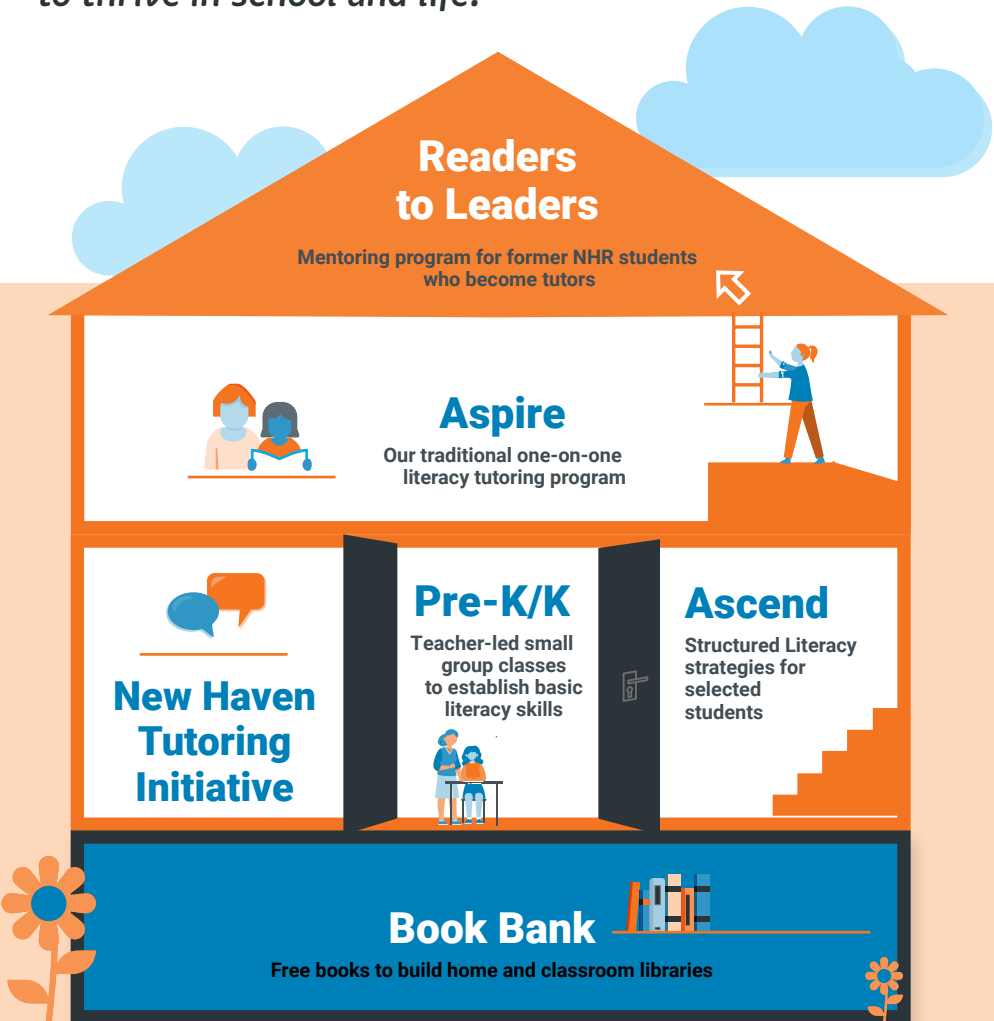
New Haven Reads provides equitable access to learning opportunities and closes achievement gaps to invest in the future of our community.



Landon, age 6

Programs

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.



Book Bank

**Over 3 million books distributed since 2001—
106,207 in 2025-26 alone!**

Book Bridge Expansion



Book Bridge Year 2 saw a significant expansion! When teachers shared their disappointment that they were unable to secure bus transportation for their field trips to NHR, we developed 'Book Bridge' to bring the field trip to them. This year, Book Bridge grew from 23 to 35 classrooms, serving schools in New Haven, Hamden and West Haven.

When he had moved to his new school years ago, 6th grade teacher Tim Trama's classroom had no books. A colleague suggested contacting New Haven Reads and within days, four boxes of books arrived to fill his classroom library. This year, Tim tasked his students with a book drive service project as "...a great opportunity to do something to give back to an organization that has given so much to our community."

Giving back



"The response from the community was overwhelming and I was so glad to be able to give back to New Haven Reads. By the end of the week-long drive, we had an amazing total of 4,001 books!"

—Tim Trama

Hosted 85 school field trips for 1,485 schoolchildren. Students listen to stories and go "shopping" for five books each in the Book Bank.

Our "reverse field trip" program, **Book Bridge served 35 classrooms bringing books to 1,688 students.**



Our largest program: one-on-one literacy tutoring

437 students every week with
43% attending twice a week or more

553 hours of tutoring every week

370 dedicated community volunteer
tutors— A huge thanks to all of them!

Our students' hard work is paying off!

 **100%** of students tested improved
their literacy scores

 **58%** improved their reading level by
at least one grade level in 7 months

***“Mom, this
is so fun!”***

—Student to her mom
after her first ever tutoring
session



shelbe's ambitions



**Shelbe and Carol
this year and in
2015 baking donuts**

***“New Haven Reads nurtures
students holistically through one-
on-one tutoring, rooted in phonics
and proven to make literacy
achievement inevitable for all.”***

—Shelbe

Former New Haven Reads student, Shelbe, has always inspired us with her determination and strong work ethic. This summer, we were thrilled to welcome her back as an intern, bringing her passion for learning to NHR. Now a student at Howard University with plans to attend law school next year, Shelbe continues to exemplify the confidence and ambition that literacy can help unlock.

Abby's journey



Abby in 2024
and 2015

Abby joined NHR as a student in 2015, and she returned as a volunteer tutor in 2024. She joined our Reader to Leader program, working as a paid alumni intern. She is a phenomenal member of our team.

When we shared her plans to study aerospace engineering at Tuskegee University on our social media, we received a call from one of the founding leaders of the CT HBCU Alumni Network. She had seen our post about Abby and wanted to offer a scholarship and to include Abby in the annual HBCU Send-Off! We are overjoyed for Abby and grateful to the CT HBCU Alumni Network.

Abby's journey is a remarkable example of how a community's investment can come full circle, empowering that student to give back while opening doors to an even brighter future.

celebrating brothers



Brothers Tyler and Tyrique have reasons to celebrate! Both boys are thriving in the NHR program, and we love seeing their growth and progress. NHR Site Director, Carol, attended Tyler's recent 8th grade graduation which was a very special event. While they were waiting to see Tyler walk across the stage, younger brother Tyrique received an Excellence in Reading Certificate! Their grandmother and everyone at NHR is so proud of them both.

Tyler's 8th grade
graduation,
pictured with his
brother Tyrique

celebrating 25 years

*of sharing the joy and
power of reading*



Twenty-five years ago,

Christine Alexander brought this community together around a mission that still matters deeply today: to share the joy and power of

reading. As a tutor, I get to help our students build their reading skills but also see them just blossom with a growing sense of self-confidence.

Twenty-five years is a remarkable milestone. It is a moment to celebrate—and a moment to look ahead. Because the work is not finished. There are still children in New Haven who are falling behind in reading. There are still families and schools looking for partnership. And there are still good people who are willing to step up. New Haven Reads is a place where children build confidence, where families find support, and where a community puts its values into practice. Thank you for 25 years of helping children discover what they can do.

- Annette Charles, NHR Board President

At New Haven Reads,

we are not just building literacy, we are building possibility. For two and a half decades, New Haven Reads has been showing up—day after day—to support, coach, mentor, encourage, and laugh with children across this city.

We've filled shelves and homes with books, but more importantly, we've helped open doors to brighter futures for children with extraordinary, often untapped, potential. Because reading changes everything. Reading is the foundation for all learning. It is essential—not optional—for success in life. Students are not only gaining critical literacy skills, but also interpersonal connections, confidence, and unlimited possibility. This work is possible because of you - thank you for helping us transform lives."

- Kirsten Levinsohn,
NHR Executive Director



New Haven Reads is here because of a simple and powerful idea: that reading can change the direction of a child's life.



Watch
our new
impact
video

Our impact through the New Haven Tutoring Initiative (NHTI)



*Providing literacy interventions
across the City of New Haven*

Established in 2023, NHTI is a collaborative, citywide effort to address low reading and math skills in New Haven students. As the Lead Literacy Organization, NHR trains and coaches staff and volunteers in a version of our tutoring program at participating after school programs.

2025-26 Numbers

661 students

8 partners

12 sites in New Haven

88% of students improved their decoding and word recognition skills



Valeria

When Valeria joined NHTI, she was a shy and lacked confidence in her English skills. Today, she's entering first grade with a stronger voice and an improved belief in herself. With the support of caring tutors, Valeria has blossomed academically and socially—proof that when children receive the right support, they gain much more than reading skills.



Family event

NHTI kicked off summer programming with a fun-filled celebration where NHTI students and their families came together for storytelling, delicious food, and an exciting magic show. Students were especially happy to select free books from the NHR Book Bank. By bringing families and the community together around books and shared experiences, we are building a stronger culture of literacy that inspires learning long after the event ends.

Our community is what makes New Haven Reads so special.



Lauren, Sustaining donor

“ *New Haven Reads provided me with 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.”*

Lauren, a former NHR tutor, became a sustaining donor because she saw firsthand how all donations directly impact students.



Stacy, Tutor

“ *When you can empower a young man or a young woman to read, to plant the seed for them to become a lifelong learner, for them to learn, to be able to learn on their own, to be able to read whether it’s fiction or non-fiction, it’s empowering, and it changes their destiny.”*



Doug, Sustaining donor

“ *What has kept me a sustaining donor for over a decade is that this work truly matters. Literacy is such a foundational issue, and the need isn’t going away any time soon. Knowing that my ongoing support helps provide stability for the organization is what matters most to me.”*

As a donor, you enable NHR to transform lives. Thank you for your generous support.

Together we are improving educational outcomes for our community's youth.

July 2025 to June 2026

\$25,000 and up

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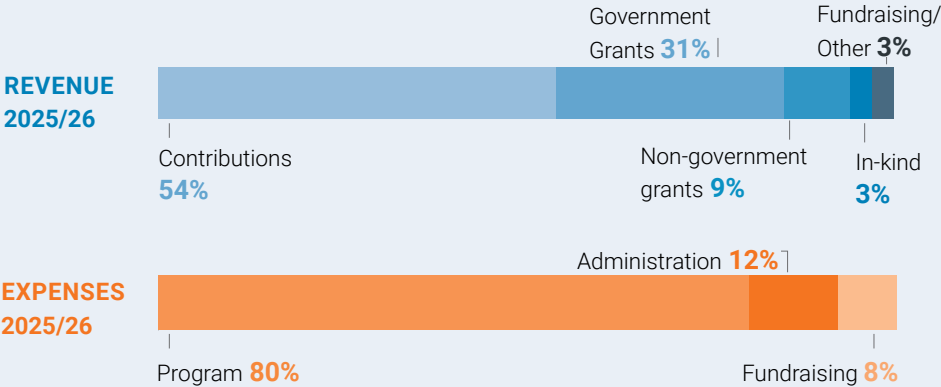
*Because of space constraints,
we are unable to print all
of the names. A full list is in
our website.*

*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.**

2025-2026 UNAUDITED FINANCIALS

Annual cost to run New Haven Reads: \$1,506,913



All programs offered free of charge to participants

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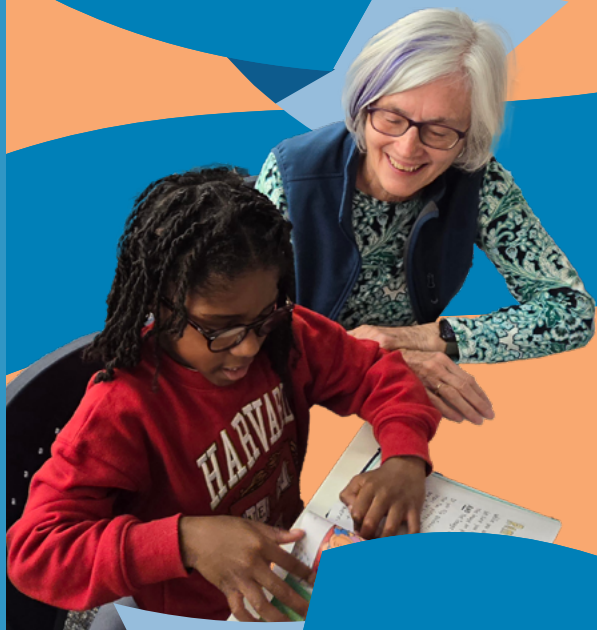


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