

Falling into Reading! One-on-one tutoring is back in action for fall!

New Haven Reads is thrilled to welcome our incredible students and our dedicated volunteers back for the fall session.

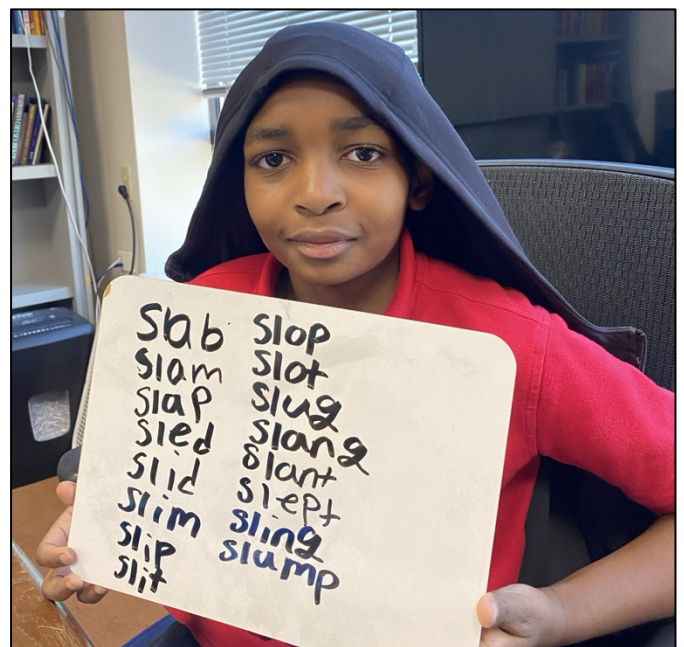
With 369 students in our tutoring program across 4 locations, our community of readers is growing by the day. We are well on our way to making this our most vibrant and impactful year of learning yet!

Second grader Dylan is back at NHR, and things are finally clicking! After working hard through the summer on letter sounds, his dedication is paying off – he is now confidently piecing full words together. Dylan and his tutor have bonded over his reading success. We are so proud of his growing confidence and reading progress.



We couldn't be achieving this without the dedicated support of our volunteer tutors. We currently have more than 300 tutors each week working with students in our tutoring program. **New tutors help us enroll students from our waitlist, giving more students the chance to thrive through literacy.**

With over 100 students waiting for a tutor, we need more volunteers! No teaching experience is needed. If you can read this, you can tutor. We provide tutors with the training and support needed to meet students where they are and help them improve their literacy. Find out more at <https://newhavenreads.org/volunteer>.



Volunteer Spotlight: Alice Baxter



“As a former teacher, I think education is the key to success,” longtime NHR tutor, Alice told us.

Twelve years ago, she was newly retired and found tutoring at NHR to be a concrete way to contribute to positive change by making a difference in someone’s life.

Alice tutors weekly at the Willow Street site, where she has helped countless students build critical reading skills. One of her favorite memories is working with one student who arrived not knowing the alphabet and ended the year reading simple books. For Alice, witnessing that incredible transformation is what volunteering is all about!

Alice values the relationships that help to make tutoring at New Haven Reads so worthwhile. “I feel as though I am learning as much as they are” she says, adding, “the days when you can make them laugh or smile are precious.” Alice is not only a volunteer, she is also a donor. **“My experience as a tutor has been so positive, that I am motivated to support the organization. I want to make sure that other students have the chance to benefit from NHR.”**

Alice and all of our volunteers are an essential part of the NHR community, contributing to building student success. Thank you!

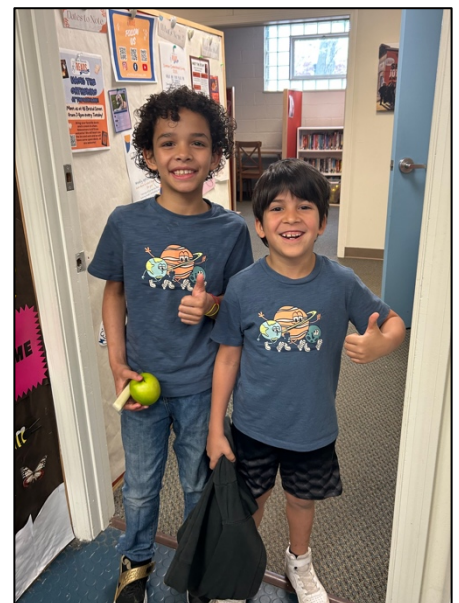
NHR by the Numbers

Provided one-on-one tutoring and enrichment clubs for **369 students** at **4 locations** for over **464 hours** of programs weekly.

Thank you to over **300 volunteers** who support our students every week!

Supported **19 Pre-K and Kindergarten students** twice weekly in small group classes.

In October, we distributed over **5,651 books** to build home libraries. We’ve distributed **27,736 books** since July 1!



Book Bridge Delivers Year Three



The Book Bridge program has entered its third year of “bringing the field trip to the classroom” for schools where budget restrictions have prevented classroom field trips to our Book Bank.

The **fall Book Bridge deliveries are already underway with 35 classrooms registered** from New Haven, Hamden, and West Haven. NHR visits each classroom twice during the school year, making deliveries in both the fall and spring. During each visit, we bring gently used books for students, 3 new books for the classroom teachers. Students pick 2-3 books to bring home to keep, building their home libraries and sharing the joy of reading with their families.

We’ll be finishing up our fall classroom visits by Thanksgiving and will resume deliveries again in the spring. The majority of our visits are to classrooms at schools in West Haven, Hamden, and New Haven.

Students, parents, and teachers have had a tremendously positive response to Book Bridge. A Hamden Kindergarten teacher told us, **“We LOVE and look forward to these deliveries. The kids get so excited to pick out their own books to add to or start their own library at home and we appreciate the books donated to our classroom libraries. Thank you, thank you, THANK YOU!”**



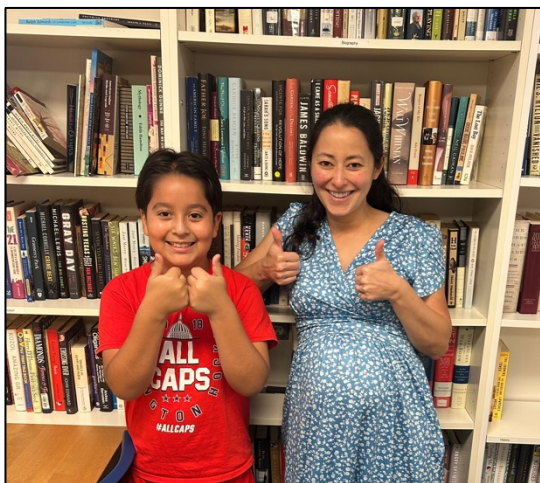
Youth Literacy Fellowship Spotlight: Hera

Hera started at New Haven Reads in early 2026 as one of our first participants in the Youth Literacy Fellowship. A senior at New Haven Academy at that time, Hera shared, “I’ve long known that I’m meant to be an English teacher. I’ve always enjoyed reading and storytelling,” adding, **“I don’t have to wait until I have a master’s in education to share my love of literature with students.”**



Now a freshman studying English and Religious Studies at Tufts University, Hera is eager to return to New Haven Reads in future summers. This past summer, Hera took the initiative to learn not just the foundational tutoring model, but also our more targeted interventions so that she could serve the most students possible. **The work experience Hera received at New Haven Reads solidified her desire to become an educator.**

New Haven Reads recruits local high school students as Youth Literacy Fellows for paid internships. The Fellows work closely with Lisa Kimberly, our Success Coach, to set them up for success at New Haven Reads and in future employment. Concurrently, the fellows help to provide a further connection between New Haven Reads and the surrounding community while tutoring students and contributing to New Haven Reads’ mission.



Want to Help Make a Difference? Support New Haven Reads in our Annual Appeal!

New Haven Reads’ Annual Appeal is coming up this November and December!

Our Annual Appeal is our largest fundraiser of the year, and when we receive the majority of our funding to support our programs.

We hope that you will please consider New Haven Reads in your year-end giving in order to provide year-round support to help build opportunities for success for students through literacy. **We could not deliver books to students and classrooms, provide individualized tutoring, or distribute books throughout Greater New Haven *without you.***

Our impact truly starts with you, and we are thankful to have you as a partner on our mission to share the joy and power of reading throughout New Haven. Thank you!

New Haven Reads Mission Moment October 2026

New Haven Reads' Mission Moments highlight the impact of our work

Following a recent book delivery from our Book Bank, a teacher wrote to New Haven Reads to share her enthusiasm and gratitude. As a first-year teacher, she has learned firsthand that building a classroom library is costly and takes time. Students were incredibly eager to classroom shop for new books, particularly given that not all students have access to books at home.

She writes, “your generous donation has provided my students with an opportunity to strengthen their literacy skills outside the classroom setting, share stories with their families, and will motivate them to read for enjoyment more often! Thank you for supporting both my students and myself!”

Thank you to everyone who donates their gently used books to our Book Bank. Find out more information on our website: <https://newhavenreads.org/programs/book-bank>.



**Thank you to everyone who supports
New Haven Reads.**

**Our impact starts with you!
Keep in touch by following us!**

