



FALL 2011

45 Bristol St
New Haven, CT 06511

Monday–Friday: 1–6 p.m.
Saturday: 12–4 p.m.

Parents Praise New Haven Reads

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This fall we exceeded our longtime goal of tutoring over 500 children per week! We are very excited to be offering assistance to improve the reading skills of all of these children through our successful one-on-one tutoring program.

Our current students and parents continue to inspire us. One of our fifth grade students, Magaly, has been tutored at New Haven Reads (NHR) for three years.

"For me, it's very important [to bring my daughter here] because I want her to advance further than she would with school alone," said Magaly's mom. "The school told me her reading level was low. That's why we come over here. I like the fact that they provide free services for tutoring and books. My daughter has had a positive experience because she's had great tutors."

Coming to NHR has been "a very enlightening experience" for the father of NHR students Donovan and Jevity. "Because of my disabilities, I can't do all of the things my children are supposed to get from a parent," he says. "The tutors help me out for what I can't do." He stopped attending school during sixth grade and "fell through the cracks," but he hopes his children will go on to college, use computers, and be prepared for life's challenges. "That's what I want my children to have," he affirms.

"They come here to learn."



New Haven Reads by the numbers:

| | |
|----------------------------|-------|
| Students tutored each week | 531 |
| Active tutors | 381 |
| Students on the wait list | 220 |
| Books distributed in Sept. | 9,885 |



SAT Class

The SAT prep class, running for six weeks this fall, has proven to be a tremendous success. Under the instruction of Brian Bills, a dynamic political science major in his senior year at Yale, the class accommodates 25 high school students from seven area high schools. This popular class has an extensive waiting list and several students have already registered for the spring session!

Special thanks to Veritas Prep for funding this important program and to the Yale Health Center for providing the space for this class.



Thank You!

- *Yale University* for space and utilities
- Everyone who gave donations and books in memory of *Chris Alexander*
- \$5,000 grant from *New Alliance Foundation*
- \$2,500 grant from *Bank of America Charitable Giving*
- *Higher One*: Pete Boynton and Matt Defosses for IT help and student database work
- *Veritas Prep* for supporting SAT-prep classes and math camp
- *idiom Sunday Sale Day* to benefit New Haven Reads
- *Yale Health Center* for "Jeans Day Fundraiser" and space for NHR meetings
- *Sarah Aldrich Pilates* for holding a fundraiser for NHR
- *Claire's Corner Copia* for holding a fundraiser for NHR
- *Shana Schneider* for organizing the Zumba fundraiser
- *Anne Calabresi* for 4 large bookcases, desks, and books
- *Oi Fortin* for four original prints
- *Ohanarama* for book donations on behalf of the Sabra Family

Special thanks to the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven for a grant of \$100,000 over a three-year period. We are thrilled!

Volunteer Extraordinaire: Kathy Flora

Tutor, board member, painter, organizer, student assessor, cleaner... Kathy Flora has done it all, making her an indispensable volunteer for New Haven Reads. Chris Alexander, our founder, had encouraged her to come to New Haven Reads four years ago to tutor one hour a week. Before she knew it, Kathy was volunteering 10 hours a week.

"Chris was the kind of person you couldn't say 'no' to. She was so compelling." Kathy explains, "There's such a need, and I am able to help. And, at the end of the day, it makes everyone happy."

What makes New Haven Reads so special?
Kathy replies, "When you walk in, it's like *Cheers*, everyone knows your name...tutors, parents, students. It's close-knit and it's welcoming. I love it here."



Meet our New Site Directors

Shelley Stein: I rejoined NHR after a yearlong absence, during which time I was teaching third grade at Troup School. Audrey Webb and I have started the pilot tutoring program at Troup, which is funded by United Way's BOOST program. Previously, I had started the New Haven Reads tutoring program at Science Park, as well as managed books and volunteers. I am delighted to be back with my New Haven Reads family.

Katherine Franchino: I moved to New Haven after completing my Master of Arts in Teaching from the University of North Carolina, Wilmington. Working at New Haven Reads as the Bristol Street Site Director and Volunteer Coordinator has been extremely rewarding. Literacy is my passion and my goal is to spread the joy of reading with the local youth.

Melissa Katz: Before I joined NHR as an AmeriCorps VISTA, I was a volunteer tutor for two years. During those two years I saw the program work. I saw the impact one hour per week with a consistent tutor can have on a child. I am thrilled to have the opportunity to work at NHR as an AmeriCorps VISTA and contribute to our ability to provide free educational services to the children of Greater New Haven.

Congratulations to: Catherine Strickland, our past Assistant Director, who had a baby boy on July 11, and to Leslie Derr, our former Dixwell Site Director and Volunteer Coordinator, who had a baby boy on Oct. 5.

Wish List

- Digital cameras
>8 mega-pixels
- HP Laptops >4 GB RAM
- Armless wooden chairs
- Folding chairs
- Children's Board Books
- 20 Headphone Splitters
- 30 Pairs of Headphones
- Connect 4 Game
- Post-It Notes
- Copy and multi-purpose paper
- Printer cartridges
(call for specifications)
- 30 cup coffee urn

NHR Hosts Book "Birthday" Party

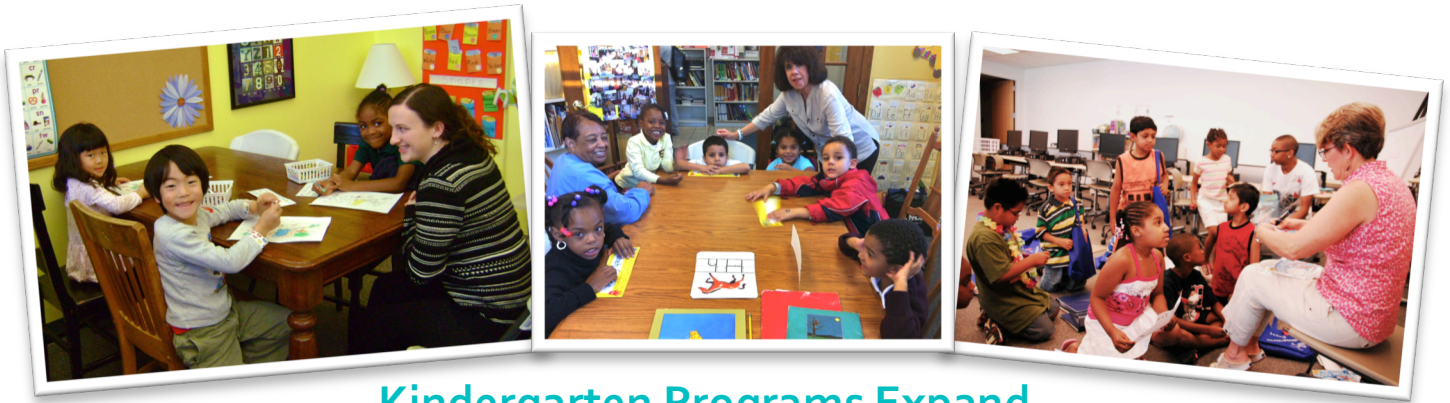
On October 1, NHR hosted a book launch for local author Deborah Freedman's new picture book, *Blue Chicken*. The picture book, aimed at children in pre-school through second grade, has received rave reviews.

Over 60 people filled the Dixwell-Yale Community Learning Center for the free event that featured various arts and crafts, a reading and book signing by the author, and a chance to see a live chicken. Children received a free raffle ticket at the door and three signed books were given away to the lucky winners!

Ms. Freedman's books, *Blue Chicken* and *Scribble*, were sold at the event and 15% of the proceeds were donated to NHR.

The event was a great success and excited all of the children about reading and the possibilities of becoming an author or an illustrator. Deborah Freedman was very pleased by the turnout, and said, "It was just absolutely so wonderful to see so many families turning out to celebrate reading."





Kindergarten Programs Expand

September marked the beginning of the seventh year of NHR's successful kindergarten literacy program. Twice a week, 42 kindergarteners and pre-k students come to New Haven Reads to hear stories, study the alphabet, and prepare to read. Most students from last year's kindergarten classes have moved to one-on-one tutoring, while nine current kindergarteners have returned after a year in the pre-k program. More than 30 children from the waitlist were scheduled, several of them siblings of current NHR tutees.

The pre-k program has undergone several changes for the 2011-2012 school year. The classes are now being taught by two experienced pre-k instructors, longtime NHR tutor Katie Salisbury and Catherine Arnold. Students come twice a week, allowing for an additional hour of fundamental literacy skills in preparation for kindergarten. These changes have expanded the pre-k program and the number of children involved.

Adela Schrader continues to teach the kindergarten classes at 45 Bristol St. and is thrilled with the positive response she is getting from parents, many of whom choose to stay and observe the class. Clara Sanders Marcus, Science Park Site Director, began teaching the kindergarten class there in September and is excited about the children's eagerness to come and learn.

Wendy North of Literacy How and Adela Schrader coordinated the Summer Literacy Camp in July for rising first and second graders. Thirty students came every morning to hone their reading skills in preparation for the school year. Each week held new surprises, including field trips to the Peabody Museum and the Yale British Art Gallery, pancake day and pasta day, along with a special visit from author Debbie Freedman.

The kindergarten literacy program is funded by the United Way, generous gifts from an anonymous donor, and tutors Ken and Susan Fellows.

NHR Goes to School

United Way's BOOST program and New Haven Reads are partnering to pilot an afterschool tutoring program at Augusta Lewis Troup School this year. Students from Troup's second grade are tutored on Tuesdays or Thursdays in the library. NHR is pleased to be extending our reach into a New Haven public school.

We still are in need of tutors for this special program. If you are available from 3:00 to 5:00 on Tuesdays or Thursdays, please contact Shelley: shelley@newhavenreads.org.

Please consider supporting New Haven Reads

- Make a financial contribution.
- Volunteer as a tutor for one of the 220 children on our wait list.
- Donate new or gently used children's books.

For more information contact us at:

203.752.1923
newhavenreads.org