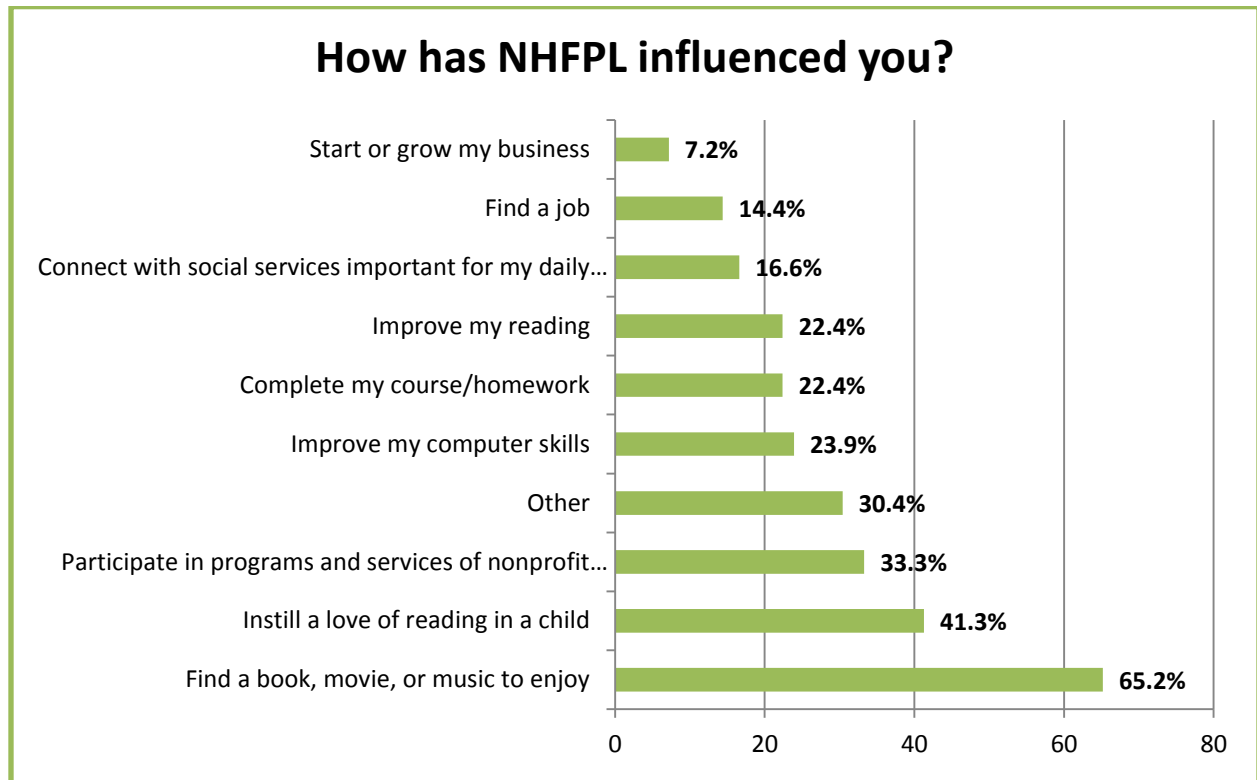




During the month of March 2016, some 140 residents responded to the New Haven Free Public Library's (NHFPL) online survey, sharing their stories about how the library has made a difference in their lives. From finding a book, movie or music to enjoy and instilling a love of reading in a child to participating in community events and improving their computer skills, respondents selected on average at least three ways in which they rely on the public library, demonstrating NHFPL's multi-faceted impact on local residents.



With permission from the respondents, their stories are shared in the following pages.

Tell us how the New Haven Free Public Library has influenced you! Share your memories, inspirations and connections with us. Tell us how the library has impacted you, your family and our community. My library helped me...

Having worked in publishing for 42 years, I love reading, but prefer getting books/videos/books on tape that I read once from the library. When I worked at Yale U. Press, across the street, I would get something every time I finished what I had checked out previously.

- Anonymous, Ives

The library provides stimulus, support and guidance to strengthen my ability to thrive and contribute.

- Anonymous, Mitchell

Spread the joy of reading and library services to a wide audience by offering numerous services to so many people.

- Anonymous, Ives

[The Business reference librarian] is a great library resource person and is very knowledgeable. He took the time to walk me through some research tools for small businesses. I appreciate his help very much!

- Anonymous, Ives

Been using the library since I was probably ten years old. From probably since the fifth grade I used the library for all my book reports, homework assignments, all school related projects, term papers, etc. When I went to college I also continued to use the library as needed. I now use the library for the enjoyment of reading and learning as needed.

- Anonymous

The library is great! They always get the books that I love to read and introduced me to series that I never would have chosen to read. The staff is so helpful in finding books that I want to read and they are very nice to everyone! The library gives me opportunities that I would never have been able to experience. The environment is so calm and relaxing and I can just unwind and not be stressed. I love the public library!

- Anonymous, Mitchell

My two children have gone to many programs, checked out countless books and some videos--as have their parents!--and I help with little league baseball which holds registration at Mitchell Lib.

- Richmond Avenue, Ives and Mitchell

The library sponsored a beginner's Chinese class for at least four years. The chance to attend this class really enhanced my life. The teacher was fantastic and treated everyone with such respect and interest. The teaching aids from Yale added another dimension to the experience. They were always helpful and patient. If the class has been discontinued, I hope it will be reinstated. I would take it again.

- Anonymous, Ives

The library helps me with my family, my daughter, her readings, etc.

- Anonymous, Ives and Fair Haven

It was a psychological relief to come to the library! The librarian helped me select books appropriate for the 2-3 year olds that I was teaching in religious education classes. During a very dark period in my life, the library became an oasis for me and the librarian was a big part of that. She called me an apt student and I called her an apt teacher. I started reading novels again after a period of not being able to read much. The librarian turned me on to the works of many contemporary women writers.

- Central Avenue, Mitchell

Provide a place to meet and socialize. Learn about parenting. Learn a language. I love having a safe, pleasant, public space to hang out with diverse people!

- Alden Avenue, Ives and Mitchell

My daughter loves to read, and we can get almost any book she wants from the library. If Fair Haven doesn't have it, they will order it from another library, and call us when it is in. It is so convenient, and it's free!! :)

- Front Street, Fair Haven

I especially remember when Jane Goodall came to the children's room of the library when it was new. I brought several kids and we were all enthralled. I am still amazed that our public library was and is able to host such illustrious people in public programs that are free.

- Anonymous, Ives and Mitchell

The NHFPL is a great resource for bringing together people from across the community. I have participated in enriching events there such a recent Bike Month planning meeting event and an event involving Long Wharf Theater.

- Audubon Court, Ives

The library and the librarians help me find all the books I want to read and some I didn't realize I wanted to read but love. The library also provided a place for my Girl Scout troop to meet and many interesting programs, like a Harry Potter Party and a book tea, in which I can meet members of my community.

- Anonymous, Ives and Mitchell

I'm a reader, though I do read books digitally (some bought but also through the library digital loan) I particularly love browsing the books and checking out several each month to enjoy in the evenings. It's my stress reliever. I couldn't afford all the books I read and I love going to the library. For years, when my children were young we came to the library every Saturday, they browsed the books, did a craft and checked out movies. We'd always bring home picture books, and later chapter books. My kids love to

read. We always felt welcome and safe in the Children's library area.
Thank you.

- Bishop Street, Ives

When I first arrived to New Haven in 1997 I needed to learn the American key board which is different from the one use in Europe. With this skill I was able to apply for an administrative position at Yale and got the job.

Before applying to a full time job I began teaching French at a magnet school. I didn't have my own computer at the time and used for 1 year and half the library computers to prepare my classes. During these 2 years everyone was very helpful and encouraging.

- Anonymous, Ives

NHPL programs engage all members of the community. My young children enjoy the children's programs as well as looking choosing books to read and then borrowing / returning books. From an adult perspective the library provides wrap around services in a welcoming community space; hosting SCORE workshops, assisting in computer usage and skills, etc. The Library is GROSSLY UNDERFUNDED and manages to provide top notch service.

- Anonymous, Ives and Mitchell

When my mother immigrated from Italy in 1935, she was astonished to discover free public libraries. I grew up in our local library and, the first thing I do when I move to a new town is get a library card. I'm 77, and I can't imagine life without a free public library. Thank you!

I am an avid reader, both fiction and nonfiction, and I would never be willing (or able) to afford to buy the books that enrich my life. Browsing in a library allows me to explore books that it wouldn't occur to me to buy, and has opened whole worlds up to me.

- Lincoln Street, Ives

I belong to an investment club and have need for certain stock information which I am unable to get without a subscription. Ives provides me the resources I need for my reporting.

In addition, I have attended seminars, films, author presentations and one meeting re: legal advice. Almost always, I have been able to leave entertained and better informed.

Reading is my favorite pastime. I would even say I am passionate about it. I belong to one local book club and am a long distance ex-officio member of another. The library has been my main source of obtaining the books.

As a child growing up in New York my parents had me and my siblings enrolled in the public library. Lucky for me, we did not have television until I was ten years of age. Reading and board games was our home entertainment. Every two weeks I was eager to return to the library just to get a new set of books. For the four years I spent in undergraduate school I worked in the college library. My pay went directly towards my tuition. I not only gained financial assistance, I gained skills in researching. It became easier

for me to locate materials I needed for classwork and I was able to assist others as well. In graduate school I used my skills to do research for my advisor who was writing a book. That time, I received the money directly.(smile)

- Anonymous, Ives, Mitchell, and Stetson

Provided a space for my agency to provide free community education on immigration matters. The library helped us connect with people who otherwise did not know about us. It was very gratifying to be able to reach more people, to provide them with knowledge that might help them avoid scams as well as obtain a legal status in the United States.

- Anonymous, Ives and Fair Haven

I love that the NHFPL offers free computer training via lynda.com, a valuable resource. I never tire of browsing through the stacks, searching for the perfect book (usually a novel).

- Anonymous, Ives and Online

A few years ago I started a small business and the library staff was very helpful. They showed my books on writing a business plan, securing loans, marketing etc. They also directed me to free seminars for new business owners at Gateway.

The public library is a tremendous resource, and great place to network with other people and non-for profits.

- Anonymous, Ives and Mitchell

My grandson enjoyed the "Stay And Play" reading story hour at both Mitchell and Fair Haven libraries, much more than I can express in words! He has a love of books, thanks to this. Also, we have participated in many activities offered by Mitchell and the Main library, and he loves going to all the diversified activities and programs, and especially loves Lego club. Also, by being in the library with him, I have begun to take out books again, and read. The librarians have so much great information. Everyone at the libraries have been extremely knowledgeable and helpful, and always friendly. We have received free books on several occasions that we love to read. We enjoyed the magic show with the summer reading program kick-off last summer.

- Alden Avenue, Ives and Mitchell

I was lucky enough to take a Beginner Drawing course for 8 weeks. This led me to explore more art and now I am taking art courses at the Peabody Museum. During the 8 weeks I made friends with folks my own age (seniors) and it made me extremely interested in pursuing more art courses. This has become a love of mine and found it a great way to get lost in the moment and relax. I am so grateful this 8 week art session was offered through a grant with no cost to me. Thank you NHFPL!!!!

I also attended a wonderful lecture with friends one evening where a local (Colin Caplan) spoke of his book "Now and Then" as a historian of New Haven. It was great information about our City of New Haven and found that night fun, entertaining and informative.

- Kneeland Road, Ives and Mitchell

The library has an immense array of books that I can use for free, which greatly fed into my love of reading. There are also great clubs though I have never been in any of them.

- Eastern Street, Ives and Fair Haven

I bring my children to the Mitchell branch of NHFPL. They love attending different events, participating in the Summer Reading Program, and checking out stacks of books to enjoy at home. It has instilled a deep love of reading in their hearts and they excel in school because of the strong foundation the library provided them.

- Anonymous, Mitchell

Since 1968, when I moved to NH, I have used and enjoyed the NHPL, both the Main Library and the Fair Haven Branch. Reading is central to my life, for pleasure, and for learning. The library and its librarians have always helped me find what I need, and research things I didn't know about, in my careers as teacher and as a social worker working with youth.

Most of all, the library brings enjoyment and appreciation of life in this fascinating city....it is a center of culture, learning, skills, and diverse people meeting each other. In retirement, I now enjoy a monthly book group at the Fair Haven branch, where I have made new friends. I don't know what I would do about without our library, and hope its support will increase and grow.

Thanks you all for your contributions to NH and its people! You are much appreciated and loved!
Librarians are a gift to us all!!!

- Perkins Street, Ives and Fair Haven

My library helped me read books that I was unable to buy! Also, I now bring my kids to the library and show them how to find books for their school projects (looking up call numbers, finding books on shelves, etc.).

- Anonymous, Ives and Mitchell

- Enjoy films that expand my appreciation of cultures, history and political forces
- See art by artists whom I would not otherwise not know
- Research New Haven's past
- It is a good resource for retired persons to use in fighting boredom

- Orange Street, Ives

To refine and then define my research in the history of New Haven, State of Connecticut, English Literature, Art History - include the Humanities - encompass the whole of history, etc.

The library has assisted in the research of Grove Street Cemetery and its residents. As well as, researching other cemeteries in the area and the ethnic churches and synagogues.

- Whalley Avenue, Mitchell

Well, I came to New Haven in 1992, from the beginning I started to use the library services. In those days I studied at the Data Institute. Then the resource to study, do the home work, read about many other issues and update my knowledge was the New Haven library.

- Carlisle Street, Ives

My daughter loves to go to the library. She enjoys the story time, the play time right after the story time. She loves to play with the trains on the train table or simply walk around the library and looking at books. As she grew a little older she got interested in the kids computer. She gets excited when we are going to the library and didn't want to leave the library when we are there. Sadly we left New Haven just before she turned 2.

I love the new books section. I always browse this section and often times picked up interesting books to read. When I moved to another state, I didn't find a wide new books section in most libraries unlike the one I'm used to when I was in New Haven. For me, who just want some new random things to read, the new books section is very helpful. It gives me a wide variety of subjects to choose from easily.

It's the place I go when I want some quite time, finding new and old books to read, find something interesting classes or programs to attend.

The library has been a big part of my daughter's early years. She loves to go there. Be it story time, play time or simply just being in the library and as she became a little older she started to like the touch screen kids computer. She is not even 2 years old at that time.

When we left CT. The one place we missed the most is the library. I want to thank the friendly library staffs who made the library the place where we want to be.

- Washington State, Ives

I've been going to the library all my adult life I've seen things and bought a lot of things in the process...thank you!!

- Anonymous, Ives and Mitchell

The staff at Wilson is always ready to help when I'm applying for jobs. They have helped me get on the job website like for Walmart or Home Eepot and they helped me make a resume to post on indeed.com

- Anonymous, Wilson

I love this library because it has provided me with a huge selection of reading and video materials, but even more than that, the staff is friendly helpful and funny. I have been an avid reader my whole life and I hate to think of a world with no libraries!

- Anonymous, Wilson

In more ways than i can think of or imagine

- Grand Avenue, Wilson

I found a place to give back - I recently donated 100+ dvds to the Wilson Library. They have a great selection - I think it's the best in the city and I go to all your locations. Now I've helped make it better! I'm on a fixed income, so it's great to be able to give back to my favorite branch!
It provides free entertainment in the form of movies and dvds and I should say I see a lot of people doing job applications when I'm at the library. It's hard to say - this place just makes me feel better about my fellow man. The Hill needed this place for a long time.

- Sylvan Street, Wilson

Simply time to find and do the things needed to get my life back!

We could use MORE time on the PC's than 90 mins, but we are not alone in the world :-)

- Anonymous, Wilson

I'm able to get help if needed they taught me things about the computer I didn't know. They were kind; a very good environment.

- Redfield Street, Wilson

The library supplies my raging book addiction.
Reading keeps me out of trouble.

- Anonymous, Ives and Wilson

Because I do not own a vehicle, the library provides me with the means to perform a number of necessary tasks via internet. For instance, I am returning to college in the Fall. The library allowed me to file applications online as well as gain a head start on academic studies, both online and by reading books. Another example is social services. I can save a lot of time by updating info online so paperwork is processed more efficiently. It also allows me to take online courses for the American Red Cross, as well as keep in contact with the national organization.

- Anonymous, Wilson, Ives, Stetson, and Mitchell

The Wilson Branch Library is local in our community and everyone enjoys going there instead of being stuck in the house. The staff and the security officer are polite, helpful and get along with everyone they meet.

- Dewitt Street, Wilson

I love this Wilson Library. I made more friends.

-Russell Street, Wilson

Helping with my resume

- Howard Avenue, Wilson

Raise awareness; great culture help to enrich my lives and that of my grandkids nieces and nephews

- Pond Street, Wilson

I love coming to the library. It's a relaxing and carefree environment that allows me to enjoy my love for reading while being surrounded by non-judgmental and helpful people.

This library has a great selection of books and movies that make it easy for a person of any interest to find something that fits their unique personalities.

- Hazel Street, Ives and Online

NHFPL is a great community resource. I've gone to a number of programs there such as the Community Foundation's workshops for non-profits as well as exercise classes and even a great talk on opera. Thank you!

- Grassy Hill Road, Ives and Mitchell

My daughter and I enjoy visiting the Mitchell Library in Westville. The staff is very helpful finding just the right books for her.

Library HAS A GREAT SELECTION OF CHILDRENS BOOKS

- Anonymous, Mitchell

Great programs for kids and adults, love it!! And wonderful events for free!!!!

More events for kids

- Alden Avenue, Mitchell

The library helps me to use the internet and the computer for school programs and for my work. The library helps me to stay connected to the community and the events going on throughout our neighborhoods. The library offers me an opportunity to attend artistic events such as plays at Long Wharf Theater that I and many others would not be able to attend due to finances. The Library is a very resourceful tool for me. I visit the libraries at least once a week, if not more.

I was able to get a job after being out of work for almost 3 years thanks to the resources that I use at the library. I was able to find the employment opportunity for my job on the internet and complete online applications and type cover letters, and complete necessary work on the computers at the library, which helped me get a job. I do not have internet access at home and the computers are very helpful. I love reading and enjoy being able to take out books from the library. Reading for me is very important: it gives me an outlet and keeps providing me with knowledge. The library is a wonderful place. I use all of the programs and resources available to the patrons. The Library is a vital resource for everyone in the

community. It is a treasure that New Haven has 5 wonderful libraries and such fine, friendly, courteous staff to help all of the patrons.

- Morris Street, Ives, Fair Haven, Mitchell, and Wilson

The electronic collection is outstanding.

The library is an integral part of my life. As a mother, I brought my children here to participate in programs, get books and meet friends. As an at home mom, summers were full of new learning. My children will still talk of the summer we learned how to play tennis. I don't play tennis at all but I could read a book and so I did, book in hand on the tennis court, we learned a bit of tennis. This is true about chess, and knights and so many other subjects. When we were away for a week long camping trip at the beach and it rained, we went to the local library to stay happy and dry. As an adult learner and starting college at the age of 35, the library provided me many resources to find my way. As a teacher the library has been a huge support to my students outside of the school's library. Now I am a school librarian. I have found the staff here at Mitchell, and the other branches, cooperative and collaborative for the success of myself and the patrons they serve.

- Edgewood Avenue, Mitchell

Often visit on Saturdays with 5-yr old to check out books, color and play on computer. Usually walk or ride bike there from home.

- Anonymous, Mitchell

I LOVE to read as I read it improves my memory making me better for it

- Phillip Street, Mitchell

Notify me of local events around the city of New Haven.

The library is a place for me to bring my child to so that she can choose different books outside of our home library collection.

We have the opportunity to check out recent movies free of charge to enjoy watching as a family together.

The library is my go to place to get info on free local events.

- Anonymous, Mitchell

The library has enabled me to encourage my children to develop a love for reading. Both my children have been attending the library since they were newborns. I have made library visits a regular routine in our daily schedules because it establishes an enjoyable moment for my family. I am a preschool teacher and visit the library with my students as well getting them involved with activities and signing up for a library card of their own as well.

- Fountain Street, Ives, Mitchell, and the Readmobile

i learned to read seven years ago and have loved reading ever since. The library is the easiest place to get books.

- West Rock Avenue, Mitchell

Used the children's programming events for years when both of my children were young.

We've checked out vast numbers of children's books, visited all four branches, used movies for "Movie Night" at home, and checked out lots of music including kids' music. Grabbed a song book and sang songs at a music party.

Made some very good friends at Stay and Play. We still regularly do dinner with them five years later.

- Maple Street, Mitchell

i really enjoy coming to this library it has everything I enjoy movies etc.. The only thing that I can say is that I'm a big movie fan and a strong Christian. The people here are a big help to me and I appreciate everything they do for me.

- Grand Avenue, Ives and Fair Haven

I love the services offered at this library. My only critique is that the library is closed on Wednesdays and Fridays. Midweek and Friday's seems a bit absurd.

It has increased my knowledge on different topics and has enhanced my love of reading and hunger for knowledge.

- Woolsey Street, Fair Haven

The collection of children's books is great - very diverse and easy to search through. We enjoy many of the children's programs like Chess Club and Lego Club, and also the special programs! Thank you!!!

- Anonymous, Ives

Great place to check out recently published books.
Great databases.

- Anonymous, Ives and Online

Helped to occupy unstructured time and expose my child to the many different books. It was nice to have my child visit the library for the first time and expose him to the many different books.

- Anonymous, Ives

The Staff are always willing to assist me and my son on Tuesday evenings.

- Anonymous, Wilson

It helps in a lot of ways with homework and now that I have kids it is helping my child with reading, homework etc.

One of the thing that help me is to learn history and about other cultures

- Beach View Lane, Fair Haven

Provided a welcoming and comfortable place (rocking chairs!) to nurse my baby when my nearby workplace did not. These were the earliest library visits with my daughter. This week (15 years later) I came here with her to meet an algebra tutor. Still welcoming, still comfortable.

What I love most about the library is how everyone has a place here. All of New Haven comes together at the library.

- Anonymous, Ives

Everyone at Stetson has helped me so with so much. The staff has been patient with my lack of computer skills...They have always offered great help.

I have my own business and need to use computers. The staff has shown me how to use excel and other programs.

My business and my personal life have thrived. The programs the library has for Children are awesome...Kids cook and Africa is me. My kids love it.

Thank them for the awesome programing.

- Henry Street, Stetson

I have attended numerous events at Mitchell Library, covering a wide variety of topics--community affairs, cultural events, youth activities.

My son and his classmate needed to do some research for a school project. We took them to Mitchell where they found plenty of good information in the encyclopedias. It was so much more fun and productive than sitting them down in front of a computer to google the info.

- West Elm Street, Mitchell

I've been going to the library since I was old enough to write my name. The librarians at Mitchell branch were the first ones who learned my name, helped me choose books and media based on my interests, and got to know me as a person.

- Anonymous, Mitchell

I became a reading addict by the time I was ten.

Since I have cruised through 7 more decades since and counting, I can fondly remember the children's section when it was downstairs on the lower level. I suspect there is no-one on the staff that recalls that. I loved it as a special place just for children. Better yet, a special place for children who live to read.

I can still remember anxiously waiting until I was old enough to be permitted to borrow four books! No more only getting a measly two.

- Anonymous, Ives

When my kids were born, the library always had wonderful movies, book reads and socialization groups and I took advantage of that at least 2-3 times a week, maybe more. They grew up with a love of books and reading. The librarians were amazing and engaged the kids.

- Anonymous, Stetson

The library branch on Winthrop Avenue (now a dental office) along with Mitchell Library were my homes away from home while I lived on Winthrop Avenue in middle school (and attended Sheridan Middle School) and high school (Hillhouse). It was a quiet place to do my homework, a great resource for research, and a warm and friendly place due to some tremendously dedicated librarians.

- Anonymous, Ives

When I had no job and no money, I could always go to the library and explore new IDEAS!! This kept me positive in some of my darkest times and it also broadened the scope of my knowledge. You were there when I need you most, NHFPL!!! <3

- Atwater Street, Ives and Fair Haven

Libraries rock! When my daughter was small we were often in the library 2-3 times a day, a great way to get a fussy infant out of the house and into the community, seeing other kids and starting to love books. One librarian asked me once if we saw the library as an extension of our living room, and I said "of course!"

I was a library-loving kid myself, so it was natural for me to bring my daughter to the NHFPL. From her earliest days in parent-infant stay-and-play groups, through sing-alongs, reading groups, library events, crafts, and neighborhood get-togethers, the library has functioned for our family as community and resource center and window on the world. We borrowed books, videos, games, pictures, even cake tins! And we have attended everything from Fancy Nancy Tea Parties to celebrations of Black History to Hindu Diwali to the Jewish, Chinese and Western New Years!

When she was small, my daughter used to call credit cards "pay-things library cards." She saw us use those other cards to pay for things we wanted to own. But she also saw us limiting purchases, especially after the crash of 2008. Meantime the shared riches of the library remained unlimited. Thanks, NHFPL for helping us raise an appreciative child full of curiosity about the world!

- Anonymous, Ives, Mitchell, and Stetson

NHFPL offers so many programs for children that there's always a reason to go to the library. My children love Lego club in the summer and we also enjoyed a parent-and-child yoga class in the fall of 2014. It's important to me that my kids know there's always something fun to do at the library, whether it's a special event or just a trip to get new books, and that a trip to the library is always free. We don't

get to the library as much as we'd like, but our whole family appreciates it's always there waiting for us. Access to a free public library is something that all community members can benefit from.

- Anonymous, Ives

I just Love the last library that I bring the kids to and I love all the adult program

- Judson Avenue, Ives, Stetson, and Wilson

The weekly Toddler Storytime and playtime after helped both my children learn to love books and get along with a very diverse group of people. The Library Museum passes offered help us get to great educational museums as a family.

- Anonymous, Ives, Mitchell, and the Readmobile

This library has always been a reliable place for me to take my child to complete her school projects. Also, while she is working on her projects, it allows me time to myself to read books.

- Anonymous, Mitchell

My son has enjoyed Bookpacks, i.e. books on tape. They have helped him start to enjoy reading. Also, we love to borrow videos and audio

- Autumn Street, Ives and Mitchell

My 3 year old daughter now loves coming to the library and read because of all of the interacting activities here.

I have learned internet tools here.

By reading books here I have developed a stronger vocabulary.

I have gotten a lot of private projects completed here.

Wealth of information here and friendly staff members to help and show you how to use it and get the information I need.

I love it and am very happy and grateful to have access to this library.

- Midfield Drive, Ives

My 3 year old and my 9 year old love reading because coming to the library makes it fun and I also love that I can rent movies as we are staying in a shelter.

- Anonymous, Ives

I live in Branford, Ct. But, there were many times I took my children as well as my mom into New Haven to enjoy the beautiful library. My whole family is big readers!!!!

- Monticello Drive, Ives

The library has given us a place where we can bring our child. Read to him and let him interact with other kids. We are thankful to have this public library.

- Fountain Street, Mitchell

My neighborhood library gives my three children various options for researching and exploring new ideas. All of the staff are so helpful and excited to help young people learn and grow.

- Ruby Street, Mitchell

Wonderful asset for my son's development. We've utilized the Mitchell Library since he was one. Would love to see the library open 7 days a week

- Fountain Street, Mitchell

The NHFPL (Mitchell Branch) has supported my family's ability to read different books with our children; offered free art programs that our teen desperately needed for her emotional stability(stress reliever); helped socialize my children when they were babies.

- Ruby Street, Fair Haven, Mitchell, and Wilson

I practice using the computer at Mitchell library. I enjoy attending the narrations of plays that are acted out at Long Wharf. I utilize the library's resources

- Rock Creek Road, Fair Haven and Mitchell

I love coming to the library for it's quiet environment. The programs are great and I love participating. Helps me express myself.

- Rock Creek Road, Mitchell

I was always fearful of the library because I never understood the old system of finding any book. Now with the digital system it is so much easier. A great place to visit with friendly resource.

I was taking a semester of Spanish, but the instructor did not speak very much Spanish in class so I was able to get a CD from the library to help.

- Pine Street, Fair Haven

Unfortunately my library card was stolen so I was unable to take full advantage of services provided but at least there is free wifi and I can read periodicals.

Basically the library has served as a place to warm up when I was homeless as well as access any information I wanted.

- Anonymous, Ives

I brought my son to your library since 6 mos. of age. He is now 6 years old and an avid reader in great part thanks to your library. During that time, we also enjoyed your many children programs. Thank you for all your Herculean efforts!

- Anonymous, Ives

The weekly writers group started by [the reference librarian] has been a wonderful treat! It's been a pleasure to spend time with people who love to write and who appreciate others' writing.

- Anonymous, Ives, Mitchell, and Online

Meet the ESL volunteers for a conversation group. I am an immigrant-mom-stay-at-home. Because the library is close to my home (Westville), I don't feel isolated. I meet other parents in the playgroup every week. I go to the meetings with ESL volunteers. Each week I have something to do with my child. Also, I can borrow books to listen to improve my English Level while I'm taking care of my child.

- Central Avenue, Mitchell

I love how the NH libraries welcome all ages, all races, all interests. Staff is always helpful: find exactly what I am looking for, and give suggestions for other things that might interest me.

- Anonymous, Ives and Mitchell

My library is just wonderful. Mostly I love to come with my two children. We have been coming for years. And the librarian helps us peruse the shelves and pick out just right books for all of us! The library has made a positive impact in our life by encouraging my children to think about reading has an exciting adventure and how many stories there are in the world. The librarians make us all excited to be reading and around books.

- Oliver Road, Mitchell

I learned how to use the internet and Microsoft in the computer class from Stetson.

- Anonymous, Stetson

I'm happy that Stetson library offers a free computer class. I learned so much in this class: I learned how to use Excel and Microsoft office. I've also learned how to type. I'm very happy.

- Anonymous, Stetson

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