



## PRESS RELEASE

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### ***The “Festival of Branches” Video Celebrates the New Haven Free Public Library’s Impact in Our Neighborhoods!***

NEW HAVEN – Today the New Haven Free Public Library releases the [Festival of Branches video by Nhv.org](http://www.Nhv.org/2015/Videos/NHFPL.php) (5 minutes in length - [www.Nhv.org/2015/Videos/NHFPL.php](http://www.Nhv.org/2015/Videos/NHFPL.php)) celebrating our neighborhood libraries and thanking Mayor Toni Harp, the Board of Alders and the City of New Haven’s local residents and community advocates for their ongoing support.

The ***Festival of Branches*** took place on Saturday, November 7 and traveled to each of the New Haven Free Public Library locations in Fair Haven, the Hill, Dixwell/Newhallville, and Westville neighborhoods. The Festival of Branches celebrates NHFPL’s four libraries out in the community and highlights their resources, services and new staff.

Each branch featured activities and refreshments to celebrate and thank the community as we welcomed new library staff to each NHFPL branch library. Fair Haven and Mitchell had makerspaces for all ages (5 – 100!) with 3D printing, Legos, snap circuit sets, knitting and more! Wilson and Stetson took to the computers with bilingual and customized instruction classes as well as the Urban Life Experience Book Discussion at Wilson and “The Village” Open House with Kidz Kook and Africa is Me at Stetson.

City Librarian and Director, Martha Brogan, celebrated along with the New Haven community. “In the digital age, the library as place has become even more important.” She reiterated the importance of the library as a public institution welcoming all residents while serving as an educational force for lifelong learning and creativity across the city.

Collectively, the four neighborhood libraries welcome nearly 250,000 library users and offer over 1,000 programs each year. Listen to library staff, patrons and local representatives as they share their thoughts about what impact these neighborhood libraries have in New Haven’s neighborhoods.

#### **About the New Haven Free Public Library**

The New Haven Free Public Library welcomes more than 620,000 library patrons through our doors each year. The library system includes the Ives Memorial Library on the historic New Haven Green, our 24/7 online services, the ReadMobile bringing books to early childhood learning centers, and our four neighborhood libraries.

The New Haven Free Public Library's mission is to ensure all New Haven's citizens have full and unlimited access to information and knowledge so that they may meet the needs of daily living, have opportunities for self-education, and participate successfully in self-government.

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