

PRESS RELEASE

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NHFPL and Read to Grow Launch New Partnership Placing Library Cards in the Hands of New Parents

NEW HAVEN – The New Haven Free Public Library (NHFPL) and Read to Grow are pleased to announce a new partnership placing library cards into the hands of new parents in New Haven.

“The New Haven Free Public Library is excited to provide library cards to new parents in our City in partnership with Read to Grow,” said Martha Brogan, City Librarian. “We know that reading aloud is pleasurable and has significant benefits to children and their parents. We are thrilled to promote the practice of whole family reading and look forward to sharing our collections and regular story time hours with new parents.”

“We couldn’t be more pleased about our new partnership to get these library cards to families in New Haven who have young children or will soon be new parents,” said Kyn Tolson, Executive Director at Read to Grow. “The goals of the library system and Read to Grow dovetail perfectly. We want more people to have access to the worlds of knowledge, enchantment and fun that books and libraries offer. These special cards open the door and warmly invite parents-to-be, mothers, fathers, and children to step in. What a great way to encourage sharing books and literacy. And today, libraries offer so much more to parents in the way of enriching their family lives. We’re grateful to New Haven Free Public Library for welcoming Read to Grow in this partnership.”

Read to Grow distributes the NHFPL cards and accompanying bilingual postcards explaining easy ways to use them for expecting parents. Pregnant women who are residents of New Haven and receive obstetrical care at Cornell-Scott Hill Health Center, Fair Haven Community Health Center, and Women’s Center at Yale New Haven Primary Care Clinic will receive the cards. Each library card is valid for at least one year and offers access to online resources at NHFPL, including e-books, music and videos. Each postcard includes the five NHFPL locations and contact information, along with encouragement for adults to visit their favorite library branch and upgrade their cards to full-service library cards.

About Read to Grow

Read to Grow’s mission is to promote language skills and literacy for children, beginning at birth, and to support parents as their babies’ first teachers. Every family — regardless of income and primary language — will understand the critical importance of early childhood literacy and will take an active role in their child’s reading development. All children in Connecticut will have books of their own. For more information, visit readtogrow.org.

About the New Haven Free Public Library

The New Haven Free Public Library welcomes more than 850,000 visitors annually through our front doors and digital portals, realizing its mission of fostering lifelong learning, inspiring curiosity, and building community through shared access to resources, experiences, and opportunities for all. The library system includes the Ives Memorial Library on the historic New Haven Green, 24/7 online services, the Readmobile bringing books to early childhood learning centers, and four neighborhood libraries: Fair Haven, Mitchell, Stetson and Wilson. Now and tomorrow, the New Haven Free Public

Library will transform lives and contribute to creating a strong, resilient, and informed community where everyone can thrive.

The New Haven Free Public Library is a 2019 winner of the National Medal for Museum and Library Service awarded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The National Medal is the nation's highest honor given to museums and libraries for distinctive service to their communities. For more information, visit nhfpl.org.

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