



**Healthy  
NewsWorks®**  
By Kids, For Kids



Winter 2025

## DEAR FRIEND,

We are writing today because we know you share our deep concern about the future of journalism and the ability of news consumers to evaluate information for accuracy, fairness, and reliability. We want to tell you about a program that gives us hope.

**For more than 20 years, Healthy NewsWorks has been teaching elementary and middle school students media literacy skills: how to ask questions, identify trustworthy information, and write accurately.** The program guides the students in the production of health-related newspapers, magazines, and videos that are distributed in their schools and the broader community. The young reporters learn and adhere to foundational journalistic practices—their work must be fact-based, fair, and relevant.

Healthy NewsWorks partners with under-resourced Philadelphia-area schools where students often struggle with research and writing. The program teams up with classroom teachers during the school day to deliver a standards-aligned educational curriculum. The focus on health gives substance and purpose to student publications and videos. And the result is that kids as young as 5 years old start building the skills they will need to find reliable sources in a world drenched in inaccurate and misleading information.

“

I learned that reporting takes a lot of listening skills. It also takes lots of writing. But it really helps you learn about new things. I'm so grateful that I got to be a member of the healthy newspaper team.”

— 4th grader

“

Some things I have learned by being a member of the healthy newspaper team this year: When you are reporting and writing you need facts, resources, and follow-up questions.”

— 8th grader

Dozens of school leaders tell us that Healthy NewsWorks programming enriches and complements what students are learning in class. Teachers who directly oversee the program consistently report in surveys that more than 85% of their students gain research and writing skills and increase their health knowledge. Plus, teachers benefit. They say they gain skills they apply more broadly in the classroom, thus magnifying the impact of Healthy NewsWorks.

During the 2024–25 school year, Healthy NewsWorks expects to reach 2,000 children in one of three programs: its flagship Core Reporter program (for kids 9 to 14), Cub Reporter program (for kids 5 to 8), and Special Lessons for any classroom in the participating schools. Healthy NewsWorks' goal is to reach 3,000 students annually by the 2027–28 school year.

**We ask you today to join Healthy NewsWorks in its Building a Healthy Future Campaign.** The campaign goal is to raise \$1 million by the end of June 2026, so that many more children can gain the skills to be discerning news consumers—and potentially future reporters and editors.

With gratitude,



Gene Foreman  
Retired Managing Editor  
The Philadelphia Inquirer



Michael I. Days, President,  
National Association of Black  
Journalists – Philadelphia Chapter



Arlene Morgan  
Retired Assistant Dean, Klein  
College, Temple University



Stephen Fried  
Director of the Columbia Narrative  
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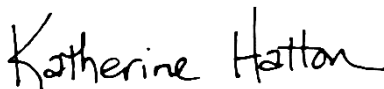
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“

Before being a reporter, I talked with no eye contact, head down, shy, mumbling. Now I am surely confident to talk with my head held up!”

– 8th grader

Healthy NewsWorks is a registered charitable organization. The official registration and financial information of Healthy NewsWorks may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling, toll-free within Pennsylvania, 800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement. Donations to Healthy NewsWorks are tax-deductible. (Tax ID: 81-4668072)