

IMPACT REPORT

2025–26



**Healthy
NewsWorks®**

By Kids, For Kids

DEAR FRIENDS,

We are delighted to share with you news of our 2025–26 school year and the many organization successes along the way. It was a year for growth—not only reaching more students and schools, but **deepening the ways students, families, educators, and communities access health information and gain media literacy skills.**

Our 2025–26 reporting theme, ***Making Healthy Connections***, invited students to explore how relationships shape health and well-being. Across our partner schools, Core Reporters in grades 4 to 8 conducted research, interviewed experts, wrote articles, created illustrations and videos, and shared what they learned with their school communities. Our Cub Reporters in grades K to 3 continued to build early research, writing, and communication skills while learning about topics such as kindness, healthy snacking, and heart health.

We also **expanded our reach in New Jersey**, adding two elementary schools in the Camden City School District: Octavius V. Catto Family School and Yorkship Family School. This growth reflects our commitment to bringing high-quality health journalism and media literacy experiences to more students in under-resourced schools.

At the same time, Healthy NewsWorks took important steps to become a more comprehensive health journalism organization for children. We created a **manager of new initiatives** position to help identify and implement ways to use our content, curriculum, and services. These initiatives are designed to strengthen media literacy and health knowledge among students and their families and communities while also generating direct revenue to support the organization's future. We built up our Family Engagement Workshops, offering 20 workshops that reached more than 350 parents, students, and family members. The workshops and new initiatives are part of a larger strategy: **sustaining strong programs by amplifying their impact.**

This vision requires solid partnerships with the community, including foundations and philanthropic individuals. We are pleased to report that the **multiyear grant momentum** started in the past few years now includes funding from the Claneil Foundation, Hamilton Family Charitable Trust, The Grace S. & W. Linton Nelson Foundation, the Anne M. & Philip H. Glatfelter III Foundation, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. This foundation support allows us to invest in broadening and deepening the impact of our programs at partner schools.

Individual donors also have stepped up significantly this year. We are expecting to announce in July 2026 that our supporters have contributed or pledged more than \$1 million to our three-year **Building a Healthy Future Campaign**. This support allows us to invest in curriculum, staff, partnerships, and new opportunities.

What began as a health newspaper program has grown into something broader and even more urgently needed: a well-rounded youth health journalism organization that develops student communication skills, builds health knowledge, and shares trustworthy, relevant information with families and communities on multimedia platforms.

Thank you for believing in our students, our teachers, and the power of young reporters to help all of us better understand the world around us.

With gratitude,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amy B. Ginensky".

Amy B. Ginensky, J.D.
President, Board of Directors



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marian Uhlman".

Marian Uhlman
Executive Director

Mission Statement

Healthy NewsWorks empowers elementary and middle school students to become **researchers, writers, critical thinkers, and confident communicators** who advance health understanding and literacy through their factual publications and digital media.

A YEAR IN REVIEW

Healthy NewsWorks served 22 schools this year—a record—with our flagship Core Reporter program that equips students in grades 4 to 8 to lead their school health newspapers. For the first time, our network included two schools in the Camden City School District. Healthy NewsWorks Core Reporters not only gain valuable academic and life skills, but they produce trustworthy health content for the entire school community.

Our growth has also been achieved by deepening our impact in our partner schools: On average, 100 students in each Healthy NewsWorks school participated in one of our three programs. Enrollment in our Cub Reporter program (grades K to 3) increased by 14 percent while Special Lessons (grades K to 8) saw enrollment increase by nearly 20 percent.

Our reporting theme this year focused on "Making Healthy Connections."

Our Core Reporters researched and wrote about how people relate to one another and how these bonds affect their mental and physical health. Students interviewed...

- Doctors, therapists, counselors
- A professional soccer player
- An anthropologist
- Librarians, chefs, and CEOs
- Visual artists and musicians
- And many more!

By the numbers 2025–26



2,244
Total students



22
Partner schools



2
Magazines



612
Core Reporters
(grades 3–8)



952
Students participated
in Healthy NewsWorks
Special Lessons



8,000+
Combined print
newspaper circulation
in our 22-school network



680
Cub Reporters
(grades K–3)



6+
Student videos



42
Student newspapers

Participating schools with Core Reporter program

Philadelphia schools

Alexander Adaire School (School District of Philadelphia)

Charles W. Henry School (School District of Philadelphia)

DePaul Catholic School
(Independence Mission School)

Eleanor C. Emlen Elementary School
(School District of Philadelphia)

Inquiry Charter School

Isaac A. Sheppard School (School District of Philadelphia)

James Lowell Elementary School
(School District of Philadelphia)

Julia de Burgos Elementary School
(School District of Philadelphia)

La Salle Academy (Independent School)

MaST Community Charter School

Philadelphia Hebrew Public Charter School

Russell Byers Charter School

William Cramp Elementary School
(School District of Philadelphia)

William Rowen Elementary School
(School District of Philadelphia)

City of Chester

Chester Charter Scholars Academy

Norristown Area School District

Cole Manor Elementary School*

East Norriton Middle School

New Jersey schools

Holy Name School (Catholic Partnership School)

Saint Cecilia School (Catholic Partnership School)

Saint Joseph Pro-Cathedral School
(Catholic Partnership School)

Octavius V. Catto Family School
(Camden City School District)

Yorkship Family School (Camden City School District)

*Cole Manor published its health newspaper for the 20th consecutive school year.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS: CORE REPORTERS

The Core Reporter program is the flagship offering of Healthy NewsWorks, where students can really flex their new literacy, research, and interviewing skills to explore topics in depth. They produce articles, illustrations, public service announcements, reflections, and videos for their schools and communities.

Experiential learning

Embedded in Healthy NewsWorks programming are opportunities for students to interview topic experts, from school counselors to highly regarded physicians and even a professional soccer player with the Philadelphia Union. Our reporters at St. Joseph Pro-Cathedral School in Camden used our 2025–26 reporting theme, "Making Healthy Connections," to communicate with students at Kopila Valley School in Nepal to produce articles and a video. In June, eight reporters from four Healthy NewsWorks schools interviewed former U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy (at right).



Public speaking

Reporters need good listening and presentation skills to do their jobs, and these practices are woven into Healthy NewsWorks curriculum. Nearly two dozen reporters took their skills to the next level as Healthy NewsWorks school ambassadors at our Healthy Conversations spring event. They learned how to facilitate a conversation during five evening lessons over Zoom.

Multimedia

Healthy NewsWorks offers opportunities for students to develop videos to expose a wider audience to the experts they interview. These videos will be incorporated into Healthy NewsWorks curriculum.

Student work appears in *By Kids, For Kids* magazines. More than 6,000 print magazines were distributed to partner schools and in the community during the past fiscal year. The magazines also appear on the Healthy NewsWorks

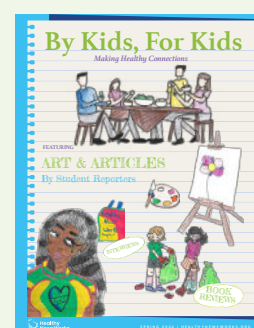
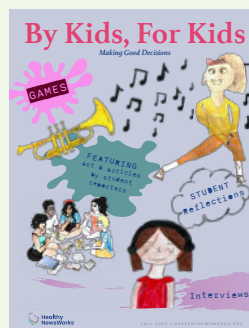
website, and, like the videos, the articles will be used as background information by future Healthy NewsWorks reporters.

More than 300 student articles, reflections, and illustrations were posted on Healthy NewsWorks' *By Kids, For Kids* web platform during the school year.

**Don't miss the Fall 2025 and Spring 2026
By Kids, For Kids magazines.**



Available at
healthynewsworks.org/our-magazines



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS: EVERYTHING ELSE

Cub Reporters

Early elementary students in our Cub Reporter program learned about healthy snacking, kindness, and heart health while gaining research and writing skills. The 2025–26 school year included 680 Cub Reporters in grades K to 3—a record number. Cub Reporters at MaST Community Charter School and Catholic Partnership Schools produced special newspaper editions geared to younger readers.

Teacher training

Healthy NewsWorks staff members deliver programming side-by-side with classroom teachers and in the process, support teacher development in health journalism skills. In June, Healthy NewsWorks faculty hosted a teacher training focused on media literacy skills that will be replicated in the upcoming school year. Earlier in 2026, Healthy NewsWorks received its renewal as an Act 48 provider for continuing teacher education from the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Healthy kids, healthy families

Family Engagement Workshops are a way for parents and guardians to learn alongside their children about how to build healthy habits. They also gain insights into how to find accurate information and ask questions of a topic expert. Healthy NewsWorks presented 20 workshops on healthy snacking, stress reduction, and social media, which were attended by more than 350 parents, guardians, students, and school staff.

Tracking progress

Healthy NewsWorks refined its methodology to track its impact and inform program quality. Moriah Hall, M.P.H., a board member who has evaluated Healthy NewsWorks programs for nearly two decades, took part in two workshop series offered by the School District of Philadelphia's Office of Strategic Partnerships. A significant benefit of these workshops was the opportunity to connect with other organizations serving students across the School District. The collaborative environment fostered meaningful conversations around shared challenges and best practices.

Professional editing

Healthy NewsWorks is developing a volunteer editing corps. These professional journalists and editors read student articles and give feedback to support student learning.



“Writing for newspapers gave me valuable knowledge and helped me improve my research, interviewing, and deadline skills. I learned how to write stronger, clearer, and work fast. Overall, my experience was great.”

—Eighth grader

“An experience I had that meant a lot was getting to bond and have fun with my classmates and friends when getting to make our own newspaper. I also enjoyed getting to contribute to something that will make a difference to other people in school.”

—Fourth grader

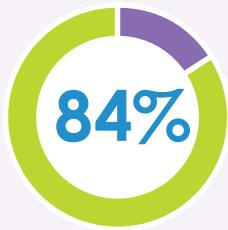
“I believe this program reinforces the idea of research and rereading to comprehend. It teaches our students to really look closely at sources and what they are trusting as truth. ... They also learn how to partner together to create something amazing. They feed off each other's thoughts and skills to create these impressive pieces.”

—Fifth-grade teacher

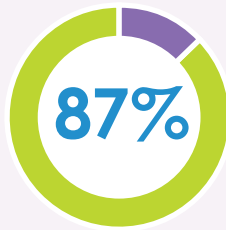
OUR IMPACT

Healthy NewsWorks measures impact through annual teacher surveys, student reflections, classroom feedback, and conversations with school leaders. Healthy NewsWorks relies on this feedback to bring the best programs to its students each year.

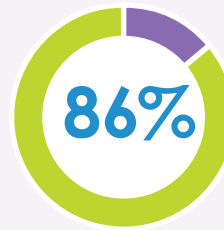
In our 2025–26 Core Reporter Program survey, teachers expressed, on average:



84% of students gained writing skills

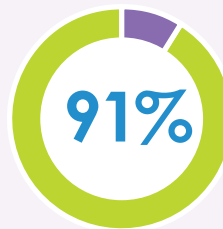


87% of students gained research skills



86% of students gained health knowledge

For the first time, we surveyed our Core program teachers to gauge what percentage of students benefited from social-emotional learning such as self-management and relationship skills by participating in Healthy NewsWorks.



91% of students gained social and emotional skills

Core Reporter teachers also say

Their students gained skills or knowledge that they otherwise would not be exposed to during the school day. Similarly, the teachers say Healthy NewsWorks has enhanced their teaching practice, especially around research, interviewing, and writing.



Trusted in the classroom

Many Healthy NewsWorks partner schools and teachers choose to opt into our programs year after year. This year, 90% of our schools were returning partners—a strong indicator that the program design, staff, and curriculum are viewed as top-notch. The 2025–26 school year also included three new schools and one returning school.



Donor acknowledgment

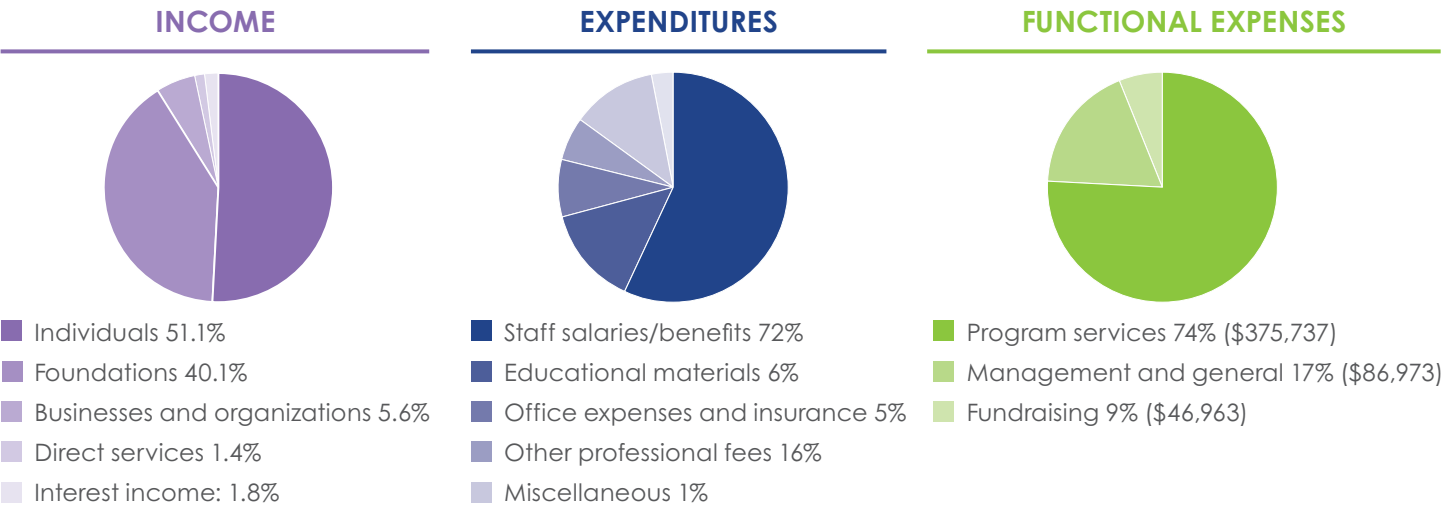
Healthy NewsWorks is grateful to all its individual, foundation, and business supporters. To see a list of our donors, please visit www.healthynewsworks.org/our-supporters. The list is updated annually.

BUILDING A HEALTHY FUTURE CAMPAIGN

Thanks a million!

We expect to announce in July 2026 that individual donors have contributed or pledged more than \$1 million to Healthy NewsWorks, surpassing our three-year **Building a Healthy Future Campaign** goal. This significant achievement has enabled us to reach more children and has laid the groundwork for deepening our impact in our schools and communities. Our sincerest gratitude to all donors for their generosity.

FY2024–25 financials



OVERVIEW		
Total revenues: \$530,841	Total expenses: \$509,673	Net assets: \$952,141

Accounting update

Effective July 1, 2025, Healthy NewsWorks elected to change its method of accounting from the modified cash basis of accounting to the accrual basis of

accounting. As a result of this change, Healthy NewsWorks' net assets on June 30, 2025, increased by \$509,201.

Healthy NewsWorks operates on a July-June fiscal year. Preliminary FY2025–26 financials will be available by request in Fall 2026.

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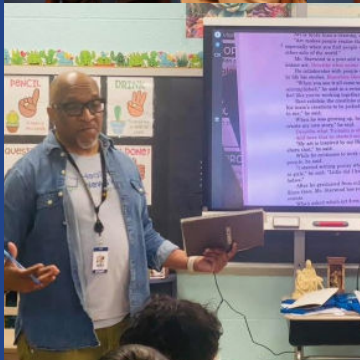
“ I believe my students became more empathetic with the help of the Healthy NewsWorks program.”

—Fifth-grade teacher



“ I learned how to have a proper conversation with people. This helps me by being able to listen and learn things about people.”

—Fifth grader



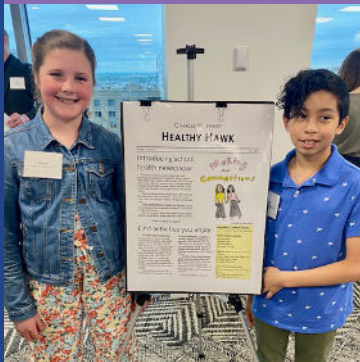
“ The things I learned about reporting are always include where you got the information from and always be polite to the people you're interviewing.”

—Seventh grader



“ We learned lots of things about what it's like to be a reporter. I learned to have patience, how to write properly, and facts about topics.”

—Seventh grader



Healthy NewsWorks®
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Healthy NewsWorks
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