



2024–2025 Year-End Summary

The Rotary E-Club of Sunshine, NY, had a busy year of service and growth. From July 1, 2024, through June, 2025, the club carried out multiple humanitarian projects (locally and abroad), pursued new-member development, organized fundraising efforts, maintained strong publicity/outreach, and handled key administrative matters. The following report, organized by theme, highlights the club's activities, dates, and key outcomes during this period.

Humanitarian Projects

- **Bangladesh Water & Flood Relief** – In July 2024 the club undertook a project to **provide clean drinking water** for underprivileged Bangladeshi villages. A total of 11 tubewells were installed in Ganapadi (Sreepur), Chittagong, Feni and Gopalganj. Later in 2024, Sunshine and Promise NY Rotary partnered with the Rotaract Club of Islamabad (Chittagong), Shagorika Rotary Club and Yeasin Alumni Group on the **Bangladesh Flood Rehab Project**. Plans were made to fund income-generating carts for flood victims (three vegetable carts) and to send funds for branded school backpacks. These projects have been completed.
- **“Save the Life” project:** The club provided funds to rebuild the home of a family rendered destitute when their home burnt down following the floods in Bangladesh.
- **Assistance to Injured orphan Rotaractor** – The Club raised funds to provide ongoing support for the family of Rotaractor Kamrul who was seriously injured with multiple bullets during the Bangladesh uprising in July-August 2024. While the local authorities covered his extended-stay hospital expenses, Our Club provided support for his family (he was the only bread-earner) for one-year. The Rotaract Club of Islamabad disbursed the funds per month.
- **Special Needs Support (Bangladesh)** – Club member Tofayel Ahmed (former Brigadier General) provided a school printer with funds from himself and Treasurer Yeasin.

- **Tanzania School Support** – Charter member Syed Mahfuz (International Service Director) donated **400 handkerchiefs and a school bus** to children at the Atlas School in Dar es Salaam. His July 2024 mission to Tanzania brought joy to local students, and the Sunshine club’s name was associated with this gift. Syed’s story of global philanthropy highlighted the club’s expanding reach.
- **Local Hunger Relief (NY/NJ)** – In Spring 2025 the club executed a **multi-location food distribution**. Leveraging a Rotary District 7230 grant and member contributions, Sunshine members packed food bags (rice, lentils, oil, pasta, etc.) and delivered them to nearly 100 low-income families in the Bronx (Ryan Ehtesham and Nadira Islam) , Westchester (Bina), Brooklyn (Shahnewaz Rahim), and New Jersey Shirin Shams and Reena Amanullah). This May 2025 “Bring Light to Families” project demonstrated the e-club model: members serving across geographies to address local food insecurity. Charter President Bina noted that this District grant was matched by club volunteers, exemplifying “the Rotary way” of acting together with modest means.
- **Support for Haiti Orphanage Children** – The Club provided non-perishable food supplies to an Orphanage in Haiti and part of a project organized by Father Philippe Charles of the Yonkers -East Yonkers Rotary Club.
- **Support for the Holy Care Elder Home** – The Club through fundraising efforts provided substantial support to the Holy Care Elder Home in Bangladesh. Our support enabled the home to provide 17 beds, a basic medical care unit, a library, and a fully-furnished room.
- **Scholarship Support for village school student** – Through a donation by a Sunshine member, a meritorious but needy student in a village high school in Gopinathpur, Bangladesh was provided a scholarship. The scholarship will continue for 4 years.
- **Other Projects** – Locally, the Club collected and provided 25 pairs of evening shoes for the high school prom project in collaboration with the Chappaqua Rotary Club. Internationally, the Club provided via a sister Club medical assistance for a cancer patient in Sylhet, Bangladesh.

Membership Development

- **New Members and Recruitment** – The club welcomed its newest member, Ryan (brother of Nahian Ehtesham), in July 2024. Bina introduced and celebrated Ryan’s induction. Shirin Shams introduced new member Reena Amanullah. Membership growth remains a focus.

- **District Engagement & Training** – Sunshine’s leadership stayed active in District events. Charter President Bina hosted the District Governor’s official visit (Oct 11, 2024) as a club meeting and planning session for the April 2025 District Conference. Membership Director Raaid Ahmad notably served as the keynote speaker at the District Conference, giving a widely viewed address on Rotary’s Action Plan (shared via Facebook with 1,400+ views). This high-profile presentation by Sunshine’s Membership Director demonstrates the club’s rising profile in D7230.
- **Member Recognition** – The club achieved significant Rotary Foundation milestones. In May 2025, members Tabin Ahmad (Website Director) and Ashfaque Salim (Executive Secretary) were honored as new Paul Harris Fellows (Tabin advancing to PH+7, Ashfaque earning his first PHF) at the District recognition dinner on 29 May 2025. Sunshine now boasts five Paul Harris Fellows (Tabin, Ashfaque, President Jenny Ahmad, Past President Aziz Ahmad, and Raaid Ahmad) and one Major Donor (Charter President Bina). These recognitions (and public announcements on the club website) underscore member commitment to giving and exemplify Rotary’s principle of **“Service Above Self.”**
- **Membership Challenges** – The club has addressed retention and dues compliance. Members were reminded (Oct 2024) of their Rotary International and District dues obligations. By November 2024 Sunshine had paid the first 2024–25 invoices (\$1,007.73 RI and \$1,105.40 District) on schedule. However, some charter members lapsed, dropping charter membership from 21 to 18.

Fundraising & Finances

- **Participation in Purple Pinkie Donut Fundraiser** – Our Club participated in the District’s first Purple Pinkie Fundraiser for Polio. Organized by the Rye Rotary Club, via a donation by Tabin, we purchased 10 one-dozen boxes of specially-made purple donuts made by Dunkin Donuts at \$25 per box. The proceeds were donated to the Rotary Foundation’s Polio Plus fund, while the donuts were given to Club members and a number of organizations. Through matching by TRF and the Gates Foundation our donation was more than quadrupled. The District proposes to expand this program in the next Rotary year and Sunshine intends to continue its participation.
- **Annual Dues Structure** – The club reviewed its dues. In November 2024 it was explained that current dues (\$250/year) no longer cover all expenses (RI dues \$130 + District \$106 + ClubRunner + Rotary Foundation \$25 = \$278.53 per member). Options considered included raising dues to \$280 or having members make

separate Rotary Foundation contributions. The club intends to finalize this for the 2025–26 fiscal year.

- **Project Funding** – Sunshine’s projects relied on a mix of member donations and grants. The clean-water project was funded by member donations. The May 2025 food distribution was funded by a Rotary District 7230 grant, matched by club volunteers and donations. Members contributed individually to the Bangladesh flood relief fund (donors included Shimul, Nadira, Bina, Raaid, Jenny, and others, with some sending money directly to Rotaract partners). For instance, Shirin Shams’ donation was explicitly redirected to the Bangladesh water project. In November 2024 Yeasin and Tofayel combined resources to donate a printer for a Bangladeshi school. Overall, Sunshine’s projects to date have been supported by grassroots giving rather than club treasury.
- **Foundation and Grants** – The club utilized Rotary grants where possible. In 2024–25 Sunshine applied for new grants (e.g. for the Fight Hunger) and coordinated with partner clubs (e.g. Promise Rotary) to amplify funding. The notable \$2,000 matching grant mentioned in November was earmarked for food assistance project.
- **Financial Reporting** – The Club assured members that all RI/District invoices were paid promptly. The July 2024 RI dues invoice was received and scheduled for payment. A breakdown of dues structure and payment procedures was provided to all members. The club is exploring more transparent budgeting for projects and will ensure any club-raised funds are spent only on their intended purpose.

Publicity and Outreach

- **Website Stories & Media** – The club regularly published its news on the official site. In 2025 Sunshine posted articles highlighting its service: for example, the “Bring Light to Families” food distribution project (May 2025) and the Paul Harris recognition (May 2025). These stories help publicize the club’s impact. Social media was also widely used: Raaid’s keynote was shared via Facebook (1,400+ views), and club members engage on LinkedIn/Twitter/Facebook in coordination with district campaigns (e.g. #EndPolio, local service days).
- **District Events** – Sunshine members participated in key district-level events. On World Polio Day (Oct 24, 2024), Charter President Bina Ahmad attended a Bronxville event with PolioPlus Chair Mike McGovern, demonstrating Sunshine’s solidarity in Rotary’s polio eradication efforts. In April 2025, Sunshine’s presence was notable at the District Conference through Raaid’s speaking role. Charter President Bina was also invited to attend the District Training program in Bermuda in April 2026, the

Regional Coordinators Retreat in Southbury, CT in May 2025 and the Zone Institute in Toronto in September 2024.

- **Local Outreach** – The club fostered public awareness through partnerships. Within the year, Sunshine members volunteered at community events alongside sister clubs. Internally, members began using a WhatsApp group for quicker communication.
- **Awards and Achievements** – Publicity also came from member achievements. Aside from PHF recognitions, Sunshine celebrated District awards (e.g. District 7230's Zone Membership Growth Award in 2024) in newsletters, reinforcing the club's role in District successes.

Administrative Matters

- **Club Governance** – Charter President Bina Ahmad led club governance with a democratic style. She encouraged sharing leadership: each member would host at least one meeting. The board continued using monthly Zoom meetings (generally 8:30–9:00 PM) to accommodate members' schedules and prayers. Unfortunately member participation at monthly Club meetings was very poor. Many members have been unresponsive to requests for engagement.
- **Documentation & Meetings** – Meeting minutes and bulletins were routinely circulated. After each meeting, a meeting summary with action items are emailed to all members promptly so members could stay informed. A major focus was planning and tracking tasks: each meeting included "Next Steps" lists with clear assignments.
- **Membership Administration** – Administrative tasks included handling membership paperwork and dues collection. In July the RI membership form was forwarded to prospects. By November, newest member Tofayel was guided to set up his Rotary.org account and his ClubRunner account. The club also maintained charter logistics: discussions in July 2024 covered IRS tax-exemption and NY Charities Bureau registration (with PDG Mahbub's support).
- **Financial Management** – The club's budgetary oversight was evident. A dues breakdown was provided in November 2024 to all members and timely payments of RI, District and ClubRunner invoices were ensured. There was close attention to proper use of funds (e.g. ensuring flood-relief donations went only to vetted project). The club also tracked incoming funds (member donations, grants) to align with projects.

- **Officer Succession** – In preparation for the next Rotary year, Sunshine elected/confirmed its leadership slate in fall 2024 - Mehran Ahmad as President: Ashfaq Salim as Executive Secretary and Yeasin Arafat as Treasurer. Bina advocated for continuity and mentorship: she focused on training new leaders (Nahian and Ryan) for future roles and ensuring a smooth transition in July 2025.
- **District Liaison** – As Area Governor, Bina represented Sunshine in District leadership. She coordinated Sunshine's involvement in District Learning Assemblies (summer 2024). She also disseminated district communications (e.g. DG chain committee calls, Rotary Foundation newsletters) to keep the club aligned with wider Rotary initiatives.

Conclusion

Throughout 2024–2025, the Rotary E-Club of Sunshine NY combined its members' diverse locations and talents to **serve both international and local communities**. Key projects ranged from Bangladesh water and education relief to feeding struggling families in the NYC area. The club advanced membership and celebrated members' achievements (Paul Harris awards, district speaking roles). Financially, Sunshine managed dues and secured grants to fund its work. Publicity via the club website and District events has raised Sunshine's profile. Administratively, Charter President Bina Ahmad and the leadership team ensured transparent governance, planning, and collaboration.

Given the above accomplishments, our Club is looking forward to receiving Rotary's **Club Excellence Award** or the third time.

As of June 2025, Sunshine NY Rotary is a vibrant, growing club of dedicated volunteers. Its members look forward to continuing these projects and welcoming new Rotarians under the banner **"Service Above Self."**

Please visit:

Our Club website: <https://sunshinenyrotary.club>

Our Facebook page: <https://fb.me/sunshinenyrotary>

Be sure to comment and like us on the website and on Facebook

Send us an email: info@sunshinenyrotary.club