2025–2026 Year-End Summary

The Rotary E-Club of Sunshine, NY, completed another active year of service and growth. From July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, the club expanded its humanitarian work in Bangladesh, New York, New Jersey, Texas, and Tanzania; sponsored the chartering of a new Rotary club dedicated to children with special needs; grew its own membership; continued fundraising for local and international projects; and remained an engaged participant in Rotary District 7230. The following report, organized by theme, highlights the club's activities, dates, and key outcomes during this period.

Humanitarian Projects

- **Sponsorship of the Rotary Club of Gentle Light –** In October 2025 the club began planning a Thanksgiving gathering for children with special needs and their caregivers, in partnership with Motin Sweets and Masala and the Autism Society Habilitation Organization (ASHO). Held on November 9, 2025, the gathering drew approximately 55 children, caregivers, Rotarians, and community members, and became the recruiting ground for a brand-new club. On January 20, 2026, the 15-member Rotary Club of Gentle Light was officially chartered, focused on serving children with developmental disabilities and their caregivers, particularly within the South Asian community in New York. Sunshine member Mohammed Tofayel Ahmed was installed as Gentle Light's charter president, and Sunshine continues to serve as an advisor to the new club.
- **Gift of Water (Bangladesh) –** The club continued its clean-water program, installing tube wells in remote and arsenic-affected communities. Sunshine arranged the installation of 12 tube wells during the year. Locally sourced wells cost roughly 40,000 BDT for a deep well and 15,000 BDT for a shallow well — both substantially less expensive than an earlier proposal of about $1,300 per well — allowing the club to reach more villages for the same donation. Some wells were given as memorial donations. Each wellhead is tested by the government water program and color-coded green (safe to drink) or red (washing only).
- **Winter Relief for Orphaned Girls (Bangladesh) –** During an unusually cold spell in late December 2025 and early January 2026, the club arranged for locally produced fleece hoodies to be distributed to 40 orphaned girls in Chandpur, with additional hoodies given to others in the surrounding community. Coordinated by

charter member Syed Mahfuz, local purchasing again stretched the club's donation further than importing clothing from the United States would have.

- **South Central Texas Flood Relief –** In early July 2025 the club donated $500 through the Rotary District 5840 Foundation to support communities affected by the severe flooding around Kerrville, Texas.
- **Local Shelter and Hygiene Support –** Sunshine members took part in District 7230's Epic Day of Service on May 16, 2026, joining other district clubs and Lions volunteers to pack clothing and hygiene items for women and families in shelters. A related project with the Rotary Club of Resilient Spirit in Brooklyn used a member flyer campaign to raise at least $150 toward the effort, funded in part through a proposed $4,000 District Grant project (including an anticipated $2,000 district match).
- **Pukuria Family Home (Bangladesh) –** Member Shireen Shams funded the rebuilding/repair of a home for a destitute family in Pukuria village, with Bina Ahmad arranging coordination on the ground. The roughly 100,000-BDT project was reported complete by the club's May 2026 meeting.
- **Assistance to a Pregnant Mother and Her Children (Bangladesh) –** In April 2026, member Yeasin Arafat helped coordinate the delivery of goods and support to a distressed pregnant woman caring for three children.
- **Scholarship and Education Support –** The club received a $3,000 donation to fund a scholarship for a student in New York. The scholarship was distributed to the student. The Club also agreed to join an existing scholarship program in Chittagong, Bangladesh, led by member Ashfaque Salim.
- **Orphanage Support (Bangladesh) –** Members contributed a combined $2,220.50 to the Monu Mia and Sultana Girls' Orphanage — $1,970.50 net of a matched donation after employer-match processing fees, plus a separate $250 gift.
- **Tanzania School Bus –** Charter member Syed Mahfuz donated a school bus carrying the club's logo to children at the Atlas School in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, building on his earlier gifts to the school. The donation was publicly recognized in February 2026.

Membership Development

- **Membership Growth –** Sunshine reported 19 members by May 2026, including the addition of a retired senior United Nations official, continuing the club's steady growth.

- **New Club Sponsorship –** Beyond growing its own roster, Sunshine's Thanksgiving gathering directly resulted in the 15-member Rotary Club of Gentle Light, chartered January 20, 2026 — the clearest example this year of a single event building lasting institutional capacity for the district.
- **District Engagement & Leadership Development –** Club leaders took part in the Zones 28/32 summit in Winnipeg, Canada in September 2025, covering membership growth, Rotary Foundation knowledge, public image, and leadership development. In June 2026 the club promoted participation in District 7230's Team Installation cruise ($75 per person).
- **Member Recognition –** Syed Mahfuz became the club's tenth Paul Harris Fellow. In May 2026 the Club also recognized President Mehran Ahmad, Yeasin Arafat, and Shireen Shams among the year's honorees, continuing Sunshine's strong record of Rotary Foundation giving.

Fundraising & Finances

- **Project Funding –** As in prior years, Sunshine's 2025–26 projects were funded through a mix of member and donor contributions, a District Grant, and one district-foundation channel: $500 to Texas flood relief via Rotary District 5840; a $4,000 District 7230 Grant (with an expected $2,000 match) plus a $150 flyer-campaign fundraiser for local shelter support; $3,000 for the New York scholarship; $2,220.50 for orphanage support; and member-funded local tube-well and Pukuria home projects in Bangladesh.
- **Cost-Effective Local Procurement –** For both the water and winter-clothing projects, the club found that sourcing materials locally in Bangladesh, rather than through the United States, allowed donations to reach significantly more beneficiaries.
- **Financial Recordkeeping –** The club continued to rely on member-submitted receipts and meeting write-ups to track donations and expenses, and identified the creation of a consolidated annual financial schedule as a priority for the coming year.

Publicity and Outreach

- **Website Stories –** The club's official website (sunshinenyrotary.club) published stories throughout the year on its major projects, including the Gift of Water program, winter clothing distribution, the chartering of the Rotary Club of Gentle Light, the club's newest Paul Harris Fellow, and its annual community picnic.

- **Fellowship Events –** On September 6, 2025, the club planned a free end-of-summer picnic at Scenic Hudson Park, open to members, families, and friends, to strengthen fellowship among Sunshine's geographically dispersed membership. Due to heavy rain, the venue was moved to Charter President Bina Ahmad's home. District Gover Garrett and his daughter attended as well as Immediate Past DG Syed Alirahi.
- **Social Media –** The club's official Facebook page continued to serve as a visual archive of Sunshine's projects and events, complementing the website's story archive.

Administrative Matters

- **Governance & Meetings –** The club held regular monthly meetings throughout the year (July, August, and October 2025; February, April, May, and June 2026), with action items and next steps tracked and circulated after each session.
- **Responsible Use of AI –** The club reviewed Rotary International's new guidance on artificial intelligence, emphasizing protection of confidential and donor information, human review of AI-drafted content, and restrictions on use of Rotary marks. Several of the year's meeting summaries were AI-drafted and then edited by members for accuracy.
- **Family Care Housing Exploration –** Working with the new Rotary Club of Gentle Light, ASHO, the New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities, and a housing navigator, the club began exploring community-based housing for adults with developmental disabilities whose family caregivers can no longer provide full-time support. As of June 2026, this remained at the task-force and concept stage, with a preliminary property estimate of about $50,000 and a possible Rotary Global Grant under consideration.

- **Looking Ahead to 2026–27 –** The club is supporting the Heritage Club's planned young-adult mental-health program (tentatively scheduled for July 12, 2026), for which Bina Ahmad secured commitments from two psychiatrist speakers. The club is also exploring a New Jersey thrift shop, Facebook-based sales, and a fundraising event at a member-owned upstate farm, alongside continued clothing collection and Rotary Foundation/PolioPlus giving.

Conclusion

Throughout 2025–2026, the Rotary E-Club of Sunshine, NY, once again combined its members' diverse locations and talents to serve communities from New York and New Jersey to Texas, Bangladesh, and Tanzania. The year's standout achievement was

turning a single community gathering into a lasting institution — the newly chartered Rotary Club of Gentle Light — while the club's water and winter-clothing programs kept delivering tangible, cost-effective relief in Bangladesh. Membership grew to 19, Syed Mahfuz was recognized as the club's tenth Paul Harris Fellow, and the club continued building its public profile through its website, social media, and district events. Administratively, the club is focused on strengthening financial recordkeeping and project documentation as it heads into 2026–27.

As of June 2026, Sunshine NY Rotary is a growing club of dedicated volunteers, energized by the launch of a sister club and looking forward to continuing its work under the banner "Service Above Self."

Please visit:

Our Club website: https://sunshinenyrotary.club
Our Facebook page: https://fb.me/sunshinenyrotary
Send us an email: info@sunshinenyrotary.club