



Rays of Sunshine

**Rays
of Sunshine**

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Meet the New Executive Committee

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Shreya Amin

Assistant Outreach Director:

Amy Tam

Training Director:

Merin Mathew

Assistant Training Director:

Amy Knop-Narbitus



Weekly Once and Dones

Rays of Sunshine's Saturday once-and-done's went great last semester! Many of our members attended these opportunities and we hope to increase the number of students again this semester. For those volunteers who cannot commit to

weekly trips, Rays of Sunshine offers Once and Done opportunities. While volunteers can choose whichever one-time weekend opportunities ranging from tutoring and making arts and crafts to assembling baskets or wrapping gifts during

the holidays. they are still **required to attend all** of the trips for which they have signed up. *Stop by Dougherty 215 to sign up for the Once and Done trips.* Descriptions and sign-up sheets are posted weekly on the bulletin board

outside of Dougherty 215. Unless otherwise stated on the sign-up sheet, **all Once and Done trips are work study eligible.**

By Shreya Amin and Amy Tam

Inside this issue:

<i>Sunshine Day 2007</i>	2
<i>Rays Day</i>	2
<i>Monthly Team Leader Reports</i>	3
<i>Fortune Cookie Success</i>	3
<i>New Year's Resolutions</i>	4
<i>Another Successful Holiday Gift Drive</i>	4

Sunshine Day 2007!

Attention all Rays of Sunshine volunteers, Sunshine Day is coming once again this spring! Sunshine Day is an annual fun filled carnival located right in St. Mary's gym for all of the students we tutor throughout the year. Every year there are games and prizes, mascots, basketball, a moon bounce, and a dance competition for the

more than 100 students from our sponsoring agencies and after school programs. Theme suggestions for this year's Sunshine Day can still be submitted and in the past have included Candy Land and Peter Pan's Neverland. If you are interested in volunteering for Sunshine Day 2007 it is scheduled for Saturday April 21st, and

positions are also available for the Sunshine Day Committee. So if you have volunteered with Rays of Sunshine, or if you would like to in the future remember Sunshine Day this spring, because it promises to be a great time for everyone.

By Eric Melchior



Rays Day

Rays Day, held early in November this fall, turned out to be a huge success! Rays Day was created so that our volunteers could have some time with the children we tutor outside of the classroom. These kids are ages thirteen to eighteen, while the younger children come to campus in the spring for Sunshine Day. The kids were invited

to Villanova's campus for a tour, lunch and a football game. Although it was a little slow in the beginning, the kids LOVED the raffle prizes, including two signed footballs by the entire football team, and watching the football game, which was a big victory for the Wildcats against a practically undefeated JMU. The kids also loved having

their posters and shirts signed by the Wildcat. We could not have had such a successful event without the help of our amazing volunteers and Villanova staff that contributed to making this day so much fun. Thanks to all!

By Caitlin Devlin

"If you are interested in volunteering for Sunshine Day 2007 it is scheduled for Saturday April 21st."



Monthly Team Leader Reports



In the fall semester the training directors surveyed Team Leaders to find out what some of the common complaints were so we could improve the experience. The Team Leaders gave us a lot of positive feedback about the great work everyone is doing, but there were a few pieces of constructive criticism.

Many were concerned about traffic and long drives to the agencies. We try to provide the best driving routes possible, but unfortunately there is not much we can do about traffic. There were also a few issues with punctuality and absences. We urge you all to show up to your trips

promptly and report absences well in advance. We also recommend that more Rays of Sunshine members get their van driver certification. Thanks for your great work in the fall and good luck in the new semester!

By Amy Knop-Narbutis

"Fundraising efforts will be largely focused on soliciting donations and funds for Sunshine Day coming up in April."

Fortune Cookie Success

This year, Rays of Sunshine held its first annual Halloween fortune cookie fundraiser. Thanks to a great and generous student body it was a success! Rays of Sunshine sold out of our Halloween fortune cookies in only two days. The fortune cookies were delivered a few days before Halloween so that students could enjoy their special Halloween-themed

fortunes before the holiday.

Since we had such success with our fall fortune cookie fundraiser, the Rays of Sunshine E-Board plans to have another fortune cookie fundraiser for Valentine's Day (think chocolate dipped!). Apart from that, spring semester fundraising efforts will be largely focused on soliciting donations and funds for Sunshine Day

coming up in April, featuring a possible fundraiser directed toward Villanova faculty.

Rays of Sunshine would like to thank all of those who supported us this semester and invite you all to continue supporting us in the spring!

By Jessica Corbett





Rays of Sunshine

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Rays of Sunshine New Year's Resolutions

1. Make attendance a high priority, especially when it gets closer to exam period.
2. Tutor more effectively by making learning fun.
3. Become more aware and respectful of cultural and social differences.
4. Share concerns with your team leader.
5. Become more involved with Rays of Sunshine's social activities and events.
6. Get to really know the other members of your team.
7. Grab a meal together as a team.
8. Speak to an executive board member or Lori about any suggestions for improving Rays of Sunshine.
9. Become a certified driver.
10. Help make Sunshine Day the best one yet!

Another Successful Holiday Gift Drive!

This year, Rays of Sunshine's annual holiday gift drive was as successful as ever! The gift drive began shortly after Thanksgiving break and lasted until December 8, 2006. For a few weeks, the Rays of Sunshine office was filled to the brim with stacks of donated items! Villanova faculty and staff donated hundreds of items that Rays of Sunshine members then packaged and

wrapped for over 200 people. Recipients included children and residents of assisted living communities. We also received almost \$400 in donations that will be used to purchase more gifts. On December 8th, Rays of Sunshine members met in the East Lounge to wrap all the gifts, and enjoy another Rays of Sunshine tradition: S'mores and Hot Chocolate with fes-

sive Christmas carols in the background. We were also accompanied by Girl Scout Troop 160 of Haver-town as they joined in the fun and helped us to wrap gifts. Thanks so much to everyone who donated gifts and to those who helped prepare them for delivery. We appreciate your participation!

By Jamie Berg

