



TAX ID: 93-3705659

December 31, 2025

# Rise to Independence (RTI) Annual Report 2025

*Celebrating Transformation, Empowerment, and Unwavering Support*

## Introduction: Empowering Dreams, Creating Lasting Change

As we step into 2026, Rise to Independence (RTI) proudly reflects on a year defined by hope, growth, and meaningful transformation at Harmony Haven. With the unwavering support of our donors and partners, we continued to empower the girls in our care—nurturing their education, wellbeing, confidence, and dreams.

Every milestone achieved in 2025, whether academic, emotional, cultural, or health-related, is a powerful reminder of what compassion and collective action can accomplish. This report highlights the progress, impact, and stories that shaped our journey throughout the year.

Thank you for standing with us. Your support does more than meet basic needs—it opens doors to possibility and builds brighter futures. Together, we are not just changing lives; we are shaping empowered, independent generations.

### 1. New Year Celebration: A Hopeful Beginning

RTI welcomed the new year with a joyful celebration, marking a moment of gratitude, reflection, and renewed commitment to empowerment and growth. The girls embraced the new year with bright smiles and hopeful hearts,



setting a positive tone for a year full of learning, confidence, opportunity, and personal success.

### Message for 2026:

*“May 2026 be shaped by compassion, innovation, educational achievement, and lasting success. Together, we celebrate progress and continue building a future of empowerment, hope, and fulfilled potential.”*

## 2. Educational Triumphs: Inspiring Success and Shaping Futures

At the heart of Harmony Haven’s mission is education, and 2025 has been a year of remarkable academic achievements and meaningful progress.



Two of our senior girls, **Nupur Akter** and **Asma Akter**, earned the proud opportunity to enroll at Bangladesh Home Economics College, Dhaka, under the University of Dhaka, majoring in Child Development & Social Relationships—a milestone that reflects both determination and dreams fulfilled.



Academic excellence shone brightly across all levels. **Asma Begum** excelled in her HSC examination with an impressive GPA of 4.67 out of 5.00, while Sumaiya Begum successfully passed her SSC with a GPA of 3.28.



All girls at Harmony Haven passed their annual examinations with strong performance, demonstrating consistent effort and the nurturing educational environment fostered by RTI.

**Sharmin Akter** completed her Class Nine board examination successfully, with results expected in January 2026, and **Suchi** and **Shumi** are diligently preparing for their SSC exams scheduled for May 2026.



Our younger learners also made notable strides through the Smart Brain's Abacus and Mental Arithmetic Program, which nurtures creativity, concentration, and problem-solving skills.

This year, Suchi and Sumi showed impressive progress, highlighting the positive impact of innovative and child-centered learning approaches.



Behind these achievements throughout 2025 and continuing into 2026 stands a deeply committed support system: the dedicated RTI team providing year-round guidance, an outstanding group of teachers and tutors offering comprehensive academic support to every girl, and most importantly our invaluable volunteer educators, **Dr. Beverly Questad, Ms. Rozana Hasan, and Mr. Shakil Ahmed Chowdhury**, whose generosity of time, expertise, and care has played a transformative role in the girls' success.

Together, these collective efforts made 2025 a year of growth, resilience, and academic excellence at Harmony Haven. The achievements of our girls reflect their hard work, the dedication of RTI's team, and the unwavering support of our donors, teachers, and well-wishers building a brighter future, one success at a time!



### 3. Empowering Through Technology: Shaping Bright Futures

In today's rapidly evolving world, technology is a key driver of opportunity and success. At Harmony Haven, we are committed to equipping our girls with the digital skills they need to thrive. Thanks to the generous support of **BreaktheTide**, Harmony Haven received another brand-new Desktop PC in 2025, building on the basic computer skills the girls had already learned. This year, all the girls, particularly the older ones, advanced to intermediate computer skills and digital projects.



To maximize the impact of these resources, a regular computer class has been integrated into the curriculum, ensuring the girls continue to strengthen their digital literacy and prepare for future careers in technology and innovation.

#### 4. Holistic Health and Mental Well-Being

At RTI, we believe true development nurtures the body, mind, and spirit. In 2025, we focused on strengthening the girls' mental health and emotional resilience, offering regular one-on-one virtual sessions with **Dr. Sabina Ahmed** and continuous guidance from RTI BD.



Inspirational talks from guests like **Dr. Md. Abdullah Saeed Khan**, PhD scholar from Oxford University, encouraged the girls to dream bigger, rise stronger, and envision meaningful lives beyond independence.



A special virtual session by **Dr. Almasur Rahman (PhD)** at Harmony Haven was more than just a workshop — it was a journey into the power of moral values, positive thinking, and unshakable confidence. The young souls left inspired, with hope in their hearts and strength in their steps.



Harmony Haven was delighted to welcome **Dr. Naheed Rouf**, an inspiring American psychologist. She spent quality time with the girls, sharing smiles, stories, and Eid Salami with thoughtful gifts, leaving them joyful, inspired, and deeply encouraged.



Throughout the year, health check-ups ensured the girls stayed physically strong, while workshops on resilience, emotional intelligence, and stress management equipped them to face challenges with confidence. All girls received general physical check-ups, and **Sharmin Akter** successfully recovered from an appendicitis

surgery, now healthy and thriving. By combining emotional support, physical care, and motivational guidance, RTI continues to empower every girl to grow into a confident, resilient, and capable individual.

## 5. Nourishing Minds and Bodies: Empowering Growth and Success

At RTI, we know that healthy nutrition fuels not just the body, but also the mind and spirit. In 2026, Harmony Haven prioritized balanced, wholesome meals that strengthen the girls' physical health, boost their energy, and enhance their learning potential. From fresh fruits and vegetables to protein-rich dishes, every meal is carefully designed to support growth, resilience, and academic achievement.

In addition, generous donors and supporters arranged special meals for the girls this year. **Ms. Shilpi Ahmed**, Honorable Country Director of RTI Bangladesh, hosted a joyful Eid get-together at Hungry Rooster, Banani, for the girls of Harmony Haven, RTI-supported girls, and RTI staff.

**Mr. Shakil Ahmed Chowdhury**, Advisor of RTI, and many others also arranged special meals, including **Iftar and Sahri**, creating memorable and heartwarming experiences for the girls.

By combining nourishment with care and community support, we ensure that our girls are strong, focused, and empowered to reach their fullest potential—because a healthy body truly builds the foundation for a bright and successful future.



## 6. Milestone Celebrations: Turning Birthdays into Moments of Empowerment

*"Every birthday is not just a day—it's a step forward in the journey of becoming."*



At RTI, we believe that celebrating personal milestones nurtures identity, confidence, and a sense of belonging. In 2025, Harmony Haven transformed each girl's birthday into a joyful celebration of growth, dreams, and self-worth, complete with thoughtful gifts, laughter, and heartfelt moments. These occasions are more than just marking the passage of time—they strengthen bonds, honor individuality, and inspire hope.



Each birthday serves as a reminder of achievements, the dreams yet to come, and the supportive family that surrounds them. By turning milestones into moments of empowerment, we help the girls embrace each new chapter with confidence, resilience, and joy, creating memories that fuel their journey toward a brighter, empowered future.



## 7. Learning Beyond the Classroom: Participation and Volunteering

At Harmony Haven, growth extends far beyond academics. Active participation in school programs, cultural activities, and volunteering opportunities plays a vital role in developing confidence, creativity, and social skills.

In 2025, the girls enthusiastically engaged in extracurricular programs, community initiatives, and cultural events, discovering new talents and interests along the way.



Notably, Nupur Akter and Asma Akter participated in Camp Abilities Bangladesh 2025, part of the Sports Without Limits program organized by Heroes For All, showcasing their courage, determination, and teamwork.



Through these experiences, RTI continues to foster a holistic approach to personal development, empowering the girls to dream bigger, contribute meaningfully, and embrace their full potential.

By stepping into diverse roles and responsibilities, they not only learn essential life skills but also build character, resilience, and a sense of purpose, preparing them to thrive in every aspect of life.



## 8. Cultural and Recreational Activities: Sparking Creativity and Joy

At Harmony Haven, cultural and recreational programs play a vital role in nurturing well-rounded, confident, and joyful individuals.



In 2025, the girls participated in a variety of vibrant events, including sports competitions, Eid Henna Festival, festive Eid celebrations including Eid Outing, and special activities during the holy month of Ramadan, encouraging creativity, teamwork, and cultural pride. All of these events are graciously sponsored by our beloved donors.



To close the year with fun and unity, we hosted a memorable 31<sup>st</sup> Night Celebration, featuring delicious food, music, dancing, and laughter. The girls reflected on the achievements of the year while welcoming 2026 with joy, excitement, and a strong sense of community.

These experiences not only create cherished memories but also help the girls build bonds, celebrate culture, and embrace life with creativity and confidence.

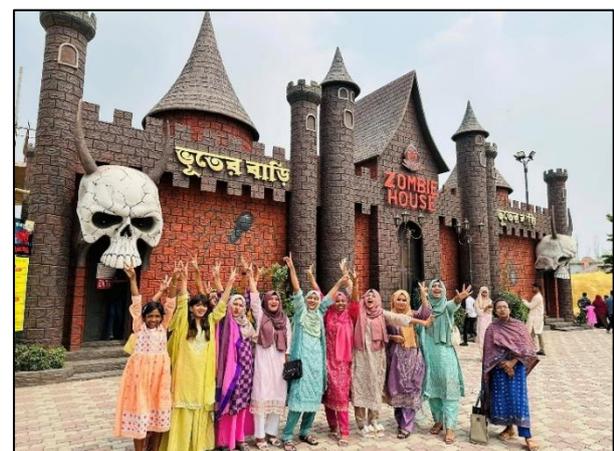


### 9. Educational Tours and Annual Picnic 2026: Expanding Horizons, Exploring the World

To honor the remarkable academic achievement of Nupur Akter and Asma Akter in gaining admission to the prestigious Dhaka University, Smart Brain Bangladesh Ltd. proudly fulfilled its heartfelt commitment by sponsoring an educational tour to Srimangal, Sylhet. Amidst the breathtaking tea gardens and rich natural heritage, this thoughtfully arranged journey not only celebrated their success but also inspired curiosity, reflection, and a love for learning beyond the classroom—truly reflecting Smart Brain Bangladesh Ltd.’s dedication to nurturing talent and rewarding excellence.



In addition to this educational tour, the girls enjoyed several enriching and joyful outings throughout the year. They visited **Sharif Dream Park**, where their faces lit up with delight as they soared on thrilling rides and experienced the magic of a breathtaking 9D movie show. The sound of their laughter echoed through the park—an unforgettable melody of pure happiness.



The girls also had the opportunity to join the wedding celebration of Lamiya Binty Hossain, the beloved niece of RTI Bangladesh Coordinator **Sabina Yesmin Nahid**, sharing in moments of love, tradition, and togetherness.



They further expanded their creative horizons by participating in “The Unraveled Soul: 1st Solo Painting Exhibition”, a powerful artistic showcase led by **Shilpi Ali**, RTI’s Country Director, at Aloki Executive Hall—an inspiring celebration of untold stories, raw emotion, and the healing power of art.



Adding to these memorable experiences, the girls visited **Sarighat, Keraniganj**, where they enjoyed the serenity of nature and the thrill of kayaking on the river, strengthening teamwork, confidence, and a love for the outdoors.



To close the year on a joyful note, the girls celebrated the **Annual Picnic 2026 at Suvarnagram Amusement Park & Resorts**. Their smiles, laughter, and excitement made the day truly unforgettable.



## 10. Honoring Volunteers and Special Guests: Inspiring Hearts, Building Futures

In 2025, Harmony Haven was enriched by the presence of dedicated volunteers and distinguished guests whose time, stories, and guidance brought inspiration, new perspectives, and lasting impact to the girls' lives. Their visits created moments of learning, reflection, and joy—opening doors to wider worldviews and deeper self-belief.



These meaningful connections beautifully reflected RTI's commitment to empowering young minds through shared experiences, cultural exchange, and compassionate mentorship. By bringing together hearts and hopes, we continue to nurture a strong sense of purpose, community, and empathy, guiding the girls toward a future filled with confidence, dignity, and opportunity.



## 11. Empowering Families: Health Support, Financial Relief, and Eid Togetherness

In 2025, RTI extended its care beyond the girls of Harmony Haven to their parents and guardians, recognizing that strong families create secure and successful futures for children. RTI provided financial assistance for essential healthcare needs, supporting guardians both in their villages through visits by the RTI team and in Dhaka when advanced medical treatment was required.



Alongside healthcare support, RTI shared the joy and blessings of Eid with Harmony Haven families by distributing meat and essential food items during both major religious festivals, ensuring families could celebrate with dignity, warmth, and happiness.

By standing beside families in moments of need and celebration alike, RTI helped ease financial burdens, ensure timely medical care, and strengthen family resilience. This initiative reflects RTI's unwavering commitment to holistic support, compassion, and sustainable empowerment for the entire Harmony Haven community.



## 12. Expanding Horizons: Empowering Girls Beyond Harmony Haven

In 2025, Rise to Independence (RTI) strengthened its commitment to reach beyond Harmony Haven, extending care and opportunity to girls from underprivileged and vulnerable backgrounds. Through education support, mentorship, vocational training, and financial assistance, RTI continues to open doors for girls who dream of a better future but lack the means to pursue it.



By providing scholarships, skill-building opportunities, and access to essential resources, RTI empowers these girls to build confidence, independence, and purpose. Each initiative

is designed to help them unlock their potential, overcome barriers, and step into a future filled with hope and possibility.

Through these efforts, RTI is nurturing a generation of strong, resilient, and empowered young girls—future leaders who will uplift their families, strengthen their communities, and contribute meaningfully to society. This work reflects RTI’s unwavering belief that every girl, wherever she stands, deserves the chance to rise, shine, and live a life of dignity and fulfillment.



### **13. Community Impact: Creating Ripples of Hope and Change**

In 2025, your continued support has empowered not only the children of Harmony Haven but also extended a positive ripple effect throughout the broader community.



RTI reached out to girls living outside Harmony Haven, providing educational resources, books, essential supplies, and personalized tutoring to help them thrive.

These initiatives have touched lives far beyond the orphanage, inspiring confidence, learning, and hope among young girls facing challenging circumstances. We are deeply grateful for your unwavering commitment and generosity, which continues to create lasting change and brighter futures for every child we serve.



### **Appeal for Ongoing Support: Building Futures, Empowering Lives**

As we look toward 2026 and beyond, we are reminded that true empowerment is a journey, one that requires sustained care, guidance, and support. The girls of Harmony Haven rely

on your generosity to continue building strong foundations for their education, health, and personal growth.

We humbly invite you to stand with them through regular donations or one-time gifts—every contribution, no matter the size, makes a real and lasting difference.

Your support ensures that these girls have access to quality education, healthcare, emotional guidance, and opportunities to dream big. Together, we can help nurture a generation of confident, resilient, and independent young women, ready to rise, shine, and contribute meaningfully to their communities and the world.



### **A Year of Empowerment, Hope, and Transformation – 2025**

2025 has been a year of remarkable growth, resilience, and transformation at Harmony Haven. Together, we have made tremendous strides toward our mission—not only providing shelter and education but also empowering these young girls to dream boldly,



embrace their potential, and become the changemakers of tomorrow. Their achievements are a direct result of your faith, generosity, and unwavering support, and for that, we are profoundly grateful.

As we step into 2026, our commitment remains stronger than ever! Your continued partnership is vital to ensuring that these girls have access to education, healthcare, mentorship, and opportunities to thrive. Every contribution—whether one-time or ongoing—provides hope, love, and the foundation for a brighter, empowered future!

May this new year bring you peace, blessings, and abundant reward! We pray that God blesses you for your kindness, grants success in all your endeavors, and fills your heart with compassion for those in need. With your support, 2026 can be another year of empowerment, opportunity, and lasting impact for the girls of Harmony Haven!



*With heartfelt gratitude,*

*Sabina Ahmed*

---

**Dr. Sabina Ahmed**

President & Executive Director

Rise to Independence (RTI)

---

**Thank you for your generous contribution.  
Your support is greatly appreciated!**

---

**DONATEONLINE:**

**[www.risetoindependence.org/donate-1](http://www.risetoindependence.org/donate-1)**

*Or*

**ZelleYour Donations@ (443)-631-8800 (For U.S)**

**bKash Your Donations @ 01740218903 (For BD)**

For inquiries or further information, please contact us :



815 670 0685  
443 631 8800



[connect.r2i@gmail.com](mailto:connect.r2i@gmail.com)  
[www.risetoindependence.org](http://www.risetoindependence.org)



5147 Columbia Road  
Columbia, MD 21044