

GOLDEN SUN YOUTH CENTER: A NEW MENTAL HEALTH FACILITY IN PALATINE, IL

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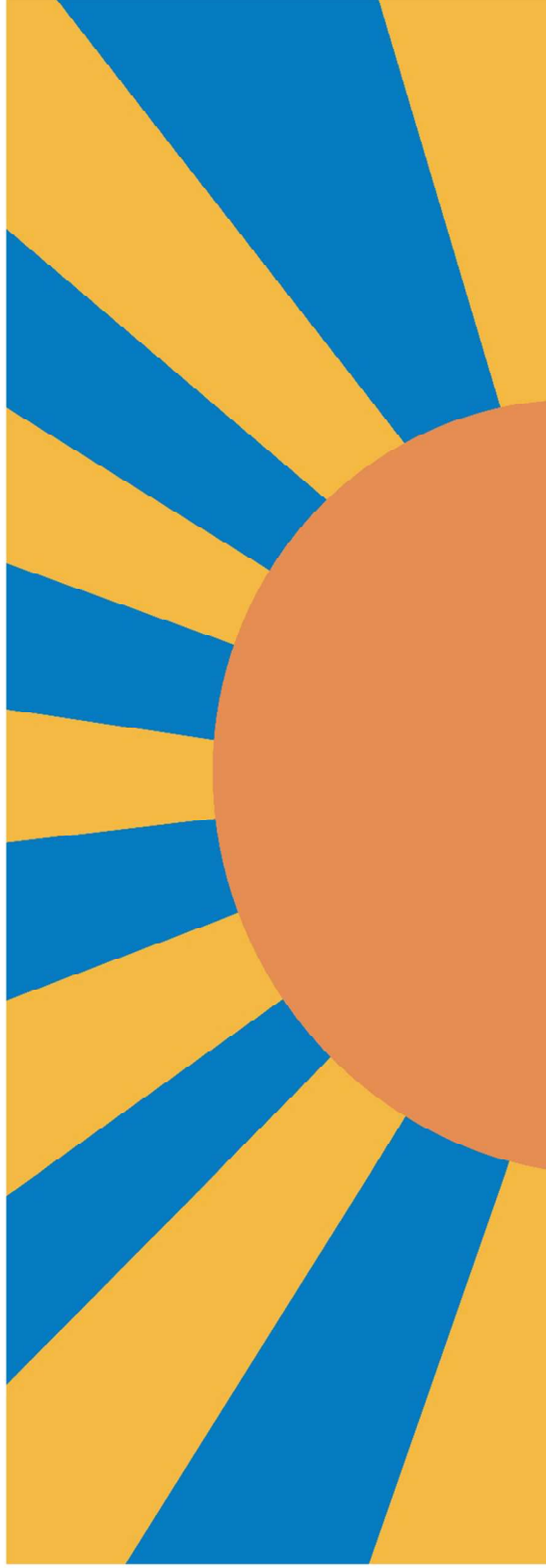
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Many kids today are struggling with mental health, and access to healthcare is not always available. The goal of this building is to be the hub of mental health care in the suburban area that I grew up in. With a focus on fostering connectivity and community, this center provides spaces for various forms of therapy, gathering spaces, quiet rooms, and a cafe, drawing from the ideas of therapeutic design. Additionally, depression and anxiety are found at higher levels within kids who feel unsafe or unsupported in their homelife, and so the second floor gives rooms for overnight stays for any child who may need it. At the urban scale, the building fronts the Towne Square, and the goal is to provide urban infill to the east in order to create a commercial corridor and activate the downtown area. This structure is meant to be a safe space for kids of all different walks of life.