

Anael Dominguez (Administration)

From: Jennifer Rivera (Administration)
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2026 3:21 PM
To: Marybeth Cook
Cc: Anael Dominguez (Administration); Kaitlyn Elliott (Planning); Katie G. Ahmed (Planning)
Subject: RE: THUMBS UP MISSION

Your public comment was received and will be forwarded to the Board of Commissioners for their review.

Thank you.

Jennifer Rivera, CMC
Board of Commissioners Clerk
Hall County Government
Tel: 770-297-2684
jrivera@hallcounty.org
www.hallcounty.org



From: Marybeth Cook [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2026 2:51 PM
To: Jennifer Rivera (Administration) <jrivera@hallcounty.org>
Subject: THUMBS UP MISSION

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Ms. Rivera,

I attended my mom's funeral when I was six years old. She died of breast cancer. Even now when I get still and quiet, decades later, I can still picture that day in my mind. I can see the casket inside the church surrounded by sprays of funeral flowers *taller than I was*, and I can still hear the haunting organ music in the recesses of my brain. Yet, I don't remember much about my mom. That's messed up. Cancer is a thief that way. I'd give *anything* to have a fun memory with MY mom like the ones Thumbs Up Mission creates for every family we serve.

I've been a volunteer with Thumbs Up Mission since its inception in 2014. I've loved and served cancer families just like the one I was born into – over 1500 families at this point. We've laughed together, in spite of the medical challenges, and we've made great memories. But I've also had the opportunity to sit quietly with young moms, bald from treatment, who are terrified of not being here to raise their own

kids. I never promise them that everything will be ok, because I don't know if that's true. Instead, I tell them what I DO know is true. There is a God who has been faithfully meeting my needs since I was six years old. And if He did it for me, He'll do it for their kids too. Every time I have a conversation like that, another piece of my own heart heals. Is it any wonder that we have a **waiting list** for people who want a chance to volunteer?

There's an old saying that **there are no atheists in foxholes**. Similarly, at Thumbs Up Mission, we're finding that cancer families are scared and desperately looking for answers. We're trained and ready to introduce them to Jesus. We just need a place to do that. Your vote could make a difference for sick people who are seeking the truth – people who may not have much time left to find it. Your vote matters.

Thanks for reading this,
Marybeth Cook