

Jennifer Rivera (Administration)

From: Kathryn Dudas [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, April 17, 2026 2:42 PM
To: David Gibbs (County Commission); Kathy Cooper (County Commissioner); Billy Powell (County Commission); Gregg Poole (County Commissioner); stowe@hallcounty.org; Katie G. Ahmed (Planning); Jennifer Rivera (Administration)
Cc: Larry Dudas; [REDACTED]
Subject: Approval for Thumbs Up Mission zoning
Categories: Public Comments

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Dear Hall County Board of Commissioners,

I am writing as both a community member and a physician serving families in North Hall to respectfully ask for your approval of the commercial zoning plan for Thumbs Up Mission on Ben Parks Road at the next board meeting.

Through my work and personal experiences, I have seen firsthand the profound impact that Thumbs Up Mission has on families navigating the unimaginable challenges of childhood cancer. Having participated in several of their larger retreats, I can confidently say that their work creates meaningful connection, healing, and support for families who often feel isolated.

What makes this particular proposal so important is the opportunity to host smaller, more intimate retreats. My family had the privilege of serving at one such retreat in Clayton, Georgia last summer. We hosted five families, each with a middle school-aged child currently battling cancer. In that small, focused setting, those families were able to truly connect—sharing joy, building friendships, and supporting one another in ways that are difficult to replicate in larger gatherings. Many of those families later returned to serve together at a larger retreat, which was incredibly powerful to witness.

My family believes so strongly in this mission that we are in the process of selling our home on Lake Lanier to move onto the same property and be part of this community. We envision these retreats as small, family-style gatherings—no different in scale or impact than hosting extended family for a weekend.

I understand that some neighbors may have concerns, but based on our direct experience, these retreats are quiet, respectful, and centered around connection and care. Additionally, this location would provide valuable opportunities for local youth and residents to serve, volunteer, and engage meaningfully with others in need.

Approving this zoning request will allow Thumbs Up Mission to expand its reach and serve more families in a deeply impactful way. I respectfully urge you to support this initiative.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and service to our community.

Sincerely,

Katie Dudas, MD
NGPG Thompson Bridge

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