

## Jennifer Rivera (Administration)

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**From:** Katie G. Ahmed (Planning)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 20, 2026 4:29 PM  
**To:** Stacey Latty  
**Cc:** Jennifer Rivera (Administration); Kaitlyn Elliott (Planning); Anael Dominguez (Administration)  
**Subject:** RE: Thumbs Up Mission

Thank you for your comment. This will be forwarded to the Board for their consideration.

Thank you,

Katie Ahmed  
Director of Planning and Zoning  
Planning and Zoning  
(direct office) 770-297-2649  
kahmed@hallcounty.org

Please note, as of January 20, Community Development and Infrastructure departments, including Planning and Zoning have been temporarily relocated to 2829 Browns Bridge Road, the Hall County Government Center Temporary Annex.

-----Original Message-----

From: Stacey Latty [REDACTED]  
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2026 11:20 AM  
To: David Gibbs (County Commission) <dgibbs@hallcounty.org>; Kathy Cooper (County Commissioner) <kcooper@hallcounty.org>; Billy Powell (County Commission) <bpowell@hallcounty.org>; Gregg Poole (County Commissioner) <gpoole@hallcounty.org>; Jeff Stowe (County Commission) <jstowe@hallcounty.org>; Katie G. Ahmed (Planning) <kahmed@hallcounty.org>  
Subject: Thumbs Up Mission

[You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

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Dear Board of Commissioners and Planning Staff,

My name is Stacey Latty and I live in North Hall. I wanted to let you know what Thumbs Up means to me and my family.

My best friend was diagnosed with stage 3 ovarian cancer in 2014 and had three small children at the time. She was worn out and beat down from all treatments and stress of wondering if she would live long enough to see her children reach adulthood. While she was in the throws of chemotherapy, Miles and Sharon Coker invited her and her family to a Thumbs Up retreat. On the way home, she called me and she sounded like my friend again. She told me how she and her family were loved so well that weekend and she had a renewed hope. She immediately started volunteering with the organization and has not missed a retreat since.

When my son was in the sixth grade he went with another family to volunteer with Thumbs Up. He came home and immediately started telling us that we needed to go with him next time. We signed up for the next retreat and have not missed once since. We now serve as a host family. I have watched him carry luggage, climb a waterslide with a child on each hip, sing, dance, act silly and love on many families with cancer. I have seen my baby boy turn into a man with a servants heart. Our children that serve are now 30 and 22 and they still continue to serve. I wish each of you could be a fly on the wall to see the impact that a Thumbs Up weekend can have on a family. Through the years, we have had several attendees actually be on Hospice when they attend. One little girl always comes to my mind. She was young and had declined rapidly from a brain tumor. She was placed on hospice and the week of the retreat, her family was not sure she would be able to make it. She could no longer walk or see (before the tumor she was a very active). I watched as my son and his best friend lifted this child and placed her in a tube and guided her through the lazy river. She smiled and laughed. A week later she went to be with Jesus. It is hard to explain the impact without seeing it.

I know the neighbors are worried, but I could not imagine better neighbors than Thumbs Up Mission. The fact that two prominent doctors in the area are willing to be their neighbors should speak volumes.

I thank you for taking the time to read my letter and I beg you to consider rezoning this area and allowing Thumbs Up Mission to reside there. The fact that it is close to home for so many volunteers would make it so much easier for us to volunteer and serve others.

Thank you,  
Stacey Latty