

Jennifer Rivera (Administration)

From: Ashlee Keys [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2026 6:50 PM
To: Kathy Cooper (County Commissioner); Jeff Stowe (County Commission); Billy Powell (County Commission); Katie G. Ahmed (Planning); Gregg Poole (County Commissioner); Jennifer Rivera (Administration)
Subject: Thumbs Up Mission

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Hello, my name is Ashlee Keys and I am a volunteer with Thumbs Up Mission and am the "First Family" of Thumbs Up Mission. In July, 2014, I was diagnosed at Northeast Georgia medical Center in Gainesville, with inoperable Glioblastoma brain cancer. I was given 14 months to live which was a huge gut punch to myself and my family. I was right in the middle of raising my young family of two daughters ages 7 and 9 and my husband. That same week I was diagnosed, I was introduced to Miles Coker who had just lost his son Keaton to the same cancer. Not long after that conversation, Miles called back and said we are sending your family on a trip with all the money Keaton had saved. Shortly thereafter, Thumbs Up Mission was formed and began having retreats and we were the first family to go on a weekend retreat. There have now been 20 retreats and my family have volunteered at them all of them. The folks that volunteer with Thumbs up have now become family to us, the kind of people you want in your corner when cancer comes and you need people praying for healing or showing up! We hope you will see fit for Thumbs Up Mission to call Hall County home so we can continue to serve families battling cancer, so we can continue giving them a weekend to relax make memories with their families smile and leave the chemo and doctors appointment behind for the weekend. Thumbs Up Mission has helped to shape my daughters as well, they've learned how to give back to their community the same way they gave to us during my cancer battle (now I'm almost 12 years out from diagnosis). My oldest daughter was paired with a child battling cancer about 8 years ago at a Thumbs Up retreat and that weekend inspired her to become a nurse. In 3 weeks, she will graduate nursing school and has accepted a job at CHOA in the pediatric oncology unit all because Thumbs Up Mission allowed her to volunteer and serve her community and people battling cancer. To say we are grateful and blessed by Thumbs Up Mission is a understatement and I know Hall county will be too.

Ashlee Keys
Sent from my iPhone