

Tara Prieto has lived in Gilmer County since 2016. She was born overseas in Zimbabwe, Africa. Her father is from Africa and her mother is from Alabama. Tara and her brother, Cullem, lived in Alabama and spent their summers in Africa with their father. She attended Coosa Valley Academy in Harpersville, Alabama. In her sophomore year, she left to pursue her dream of living on the beach. She continued to finish her schooling and received her GED with exceptionally high scores. Tara moved to Fort Myers Beach, Florida and lived there until moving to Ellijay. During her time at the beach, she met her future wife, Abbey Prieto. They have been married for five years and have two beautiful Corgis, Bunny and Tiki.

Tara and Abbey have opened several successful restaurants and a store in Gilmer County: The Shack of Ellijay, Bev's Diner, Cartecay River Pizza Company, and Jerry's General Store. Bev's Diner and Jerry's General Store are dedicated to the memory of Tara's grandparents. In Bev's last days, she was assisted by Georgia Mountains Hospice's care, and she wants to personally thank and show her gratitude to all who help and oversee this amazing organization. Georgia Mountains Hospice was a blessing to her family. Tara wants to support this organization so it will continue to be a blessing to other families in the future.

Tara and Abbey support many good causes in Gilmer County and the surrounding areas. They always generously donate to the school system, sponsoring Gilmer sports teams, the Food Pantry, animal shelter, and many more. She and her wife wanted to do more, so for the past two years they have built a non-profit organization with a friend, Irene Witt. The three of them hold the annual Bacon Fest in Ellijay. The proceeds of both years have successfully benefited the Gilmer County Food Pantry with an average of \$10,000 raised, with the addition of canned foods. Tara and their organization hope to grow even more to be able to benefit other causes to raise even more money each year. It brings them happiness to be able to help their beautiful mountain town and the people who live in it.

One of Tara and Abbey's greatest joys is that they can help bring security, support, and a sense of family to their employees and customers. Providing good, clean food to the community brings a smile to their hearts.

Tara wants to show the light of Jesus Christ our God to the community. She knows that nothing would be possible without Him. She gives Him thanks for this day, and for all His blessings in hopes that she can continue doing His work for as long as she and Abbey live on His beautiful, green Earth. She wants to thank all of you here and Gilmer County for accepting, loving, and welcoming her to be part of such a wonderful cause: supporting Georgia Mountains Hospice.