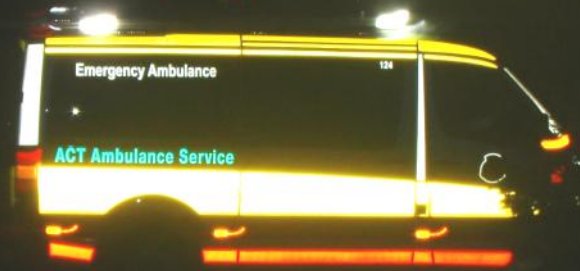


The Ambulance

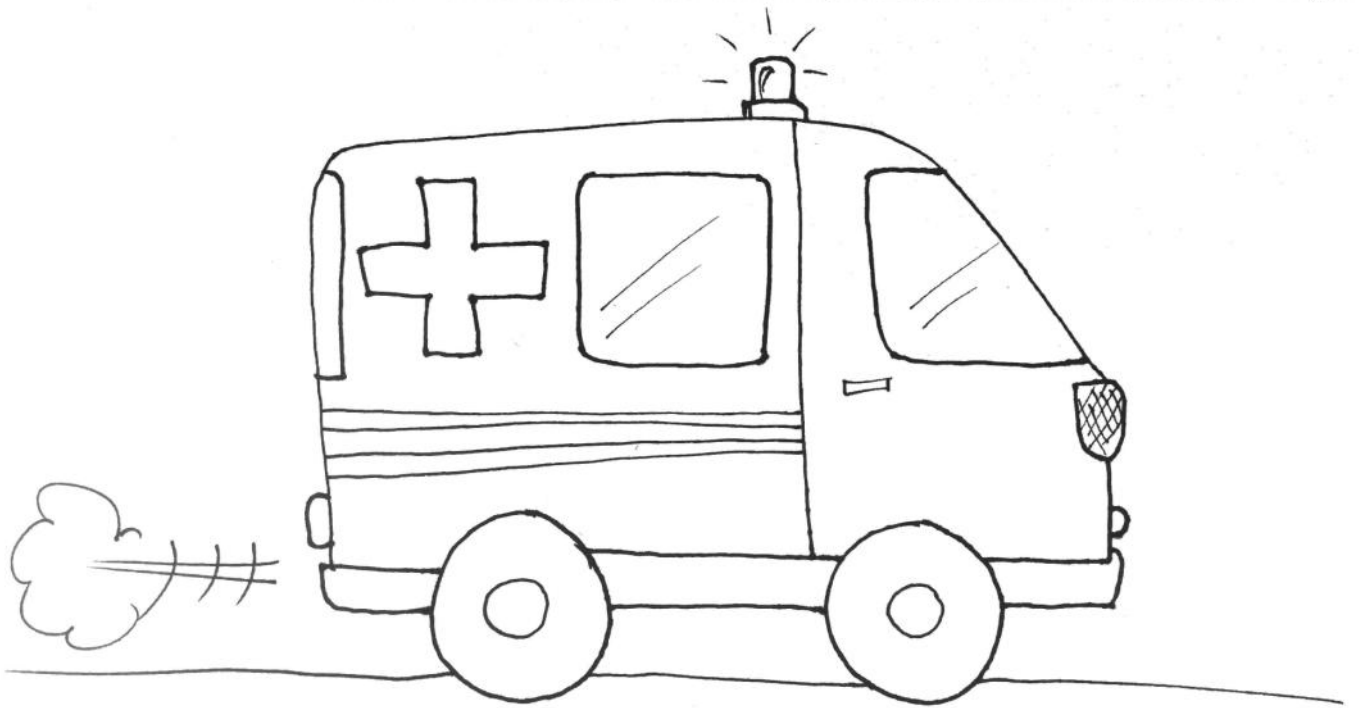


The Ambulance

Written by Chariane Quille

Illustrated by Fleur Celeste

Dedicated to my three wonderful boys!



Tony was filling his toy cars with imaginative petrol at his Duplo service station. “Okay, you’re good to go!” And off each car would be zoomed.

“Next!” he would call out, and then drive the next vehicle over.

Something caught his attention: a distant siren. An ambulance was then zooming down the road outside after a short while.



“Hmmm. We better pray,” he called over to his brother, Ned, who was in the middle of painting a picture. They prayed for the person needing help.

Just then they heard a “help” kind of sound. It was their youngest brother, Teddy. He liked to do everything that his older brothers could do, even though he didn’t yet know how to do things safely.

Tony was deciding whether to keep playing or to run and see if Teddy needed help, or to at least make sure their mother was nearby to help.



First Tony thought he would just keep playing, but then he remembered the ambulance.

“I’ll pretend that I’m an ambulance, and zoom to help at the first sound of a cry for help—from Teddy, or Ned, or Mother and Daddy.

He checked on his brother and saw that Mother was there helping him. Then Tony decided to put on a white shirt, and carry a little flashlight in his pocket to remind him how he wants to run to help whoever needed help.



He may not be driving a big ambulance or rescue vehicle, but Tony still wanted to be in the habit of helping others when they needed help.

“It’s good practice for when I’m older,” he thought, as he kept on playing “service station”.

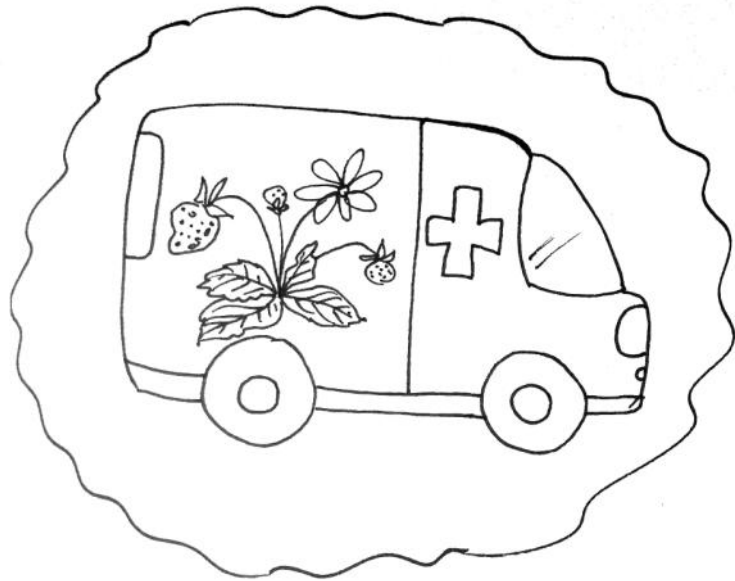
A week later Tony was pulling weeds in the garden while his daddy and older brother were digging out a new place to plant seeds.



Suddenly, some of the dirt from the weed he pulled out flew through the air and went right into his eyes.

Mother was nearby giving Teddy a drink of water and heard Tony calling out for help.

When Teddy heard Mother say that his brother needed his eyes washed to get the dirt out, he came quickly over with his cup of water. He wanted to be a help right away, and offered it to his mother.



“Thank you, Teddy,” Mother said, “You were being like an ambulance, quickly bringing help and needed supplies. I’ll get you more water after I use this.”

Teddy was glad to help. He wanted his brother to be safe and to feel well. He was also looking forward to the strawberries that would grow better once the weeds were taken out.

He was glad his brother Tony was doing that job. Teddy would help by watering the strawberries, soon. They needed a drink of water, too.



When Tony was feeling fine again, he gave his brother Teddy a hug.

“Thanks for sharing your water with me, Teddy. I’m fine now!”

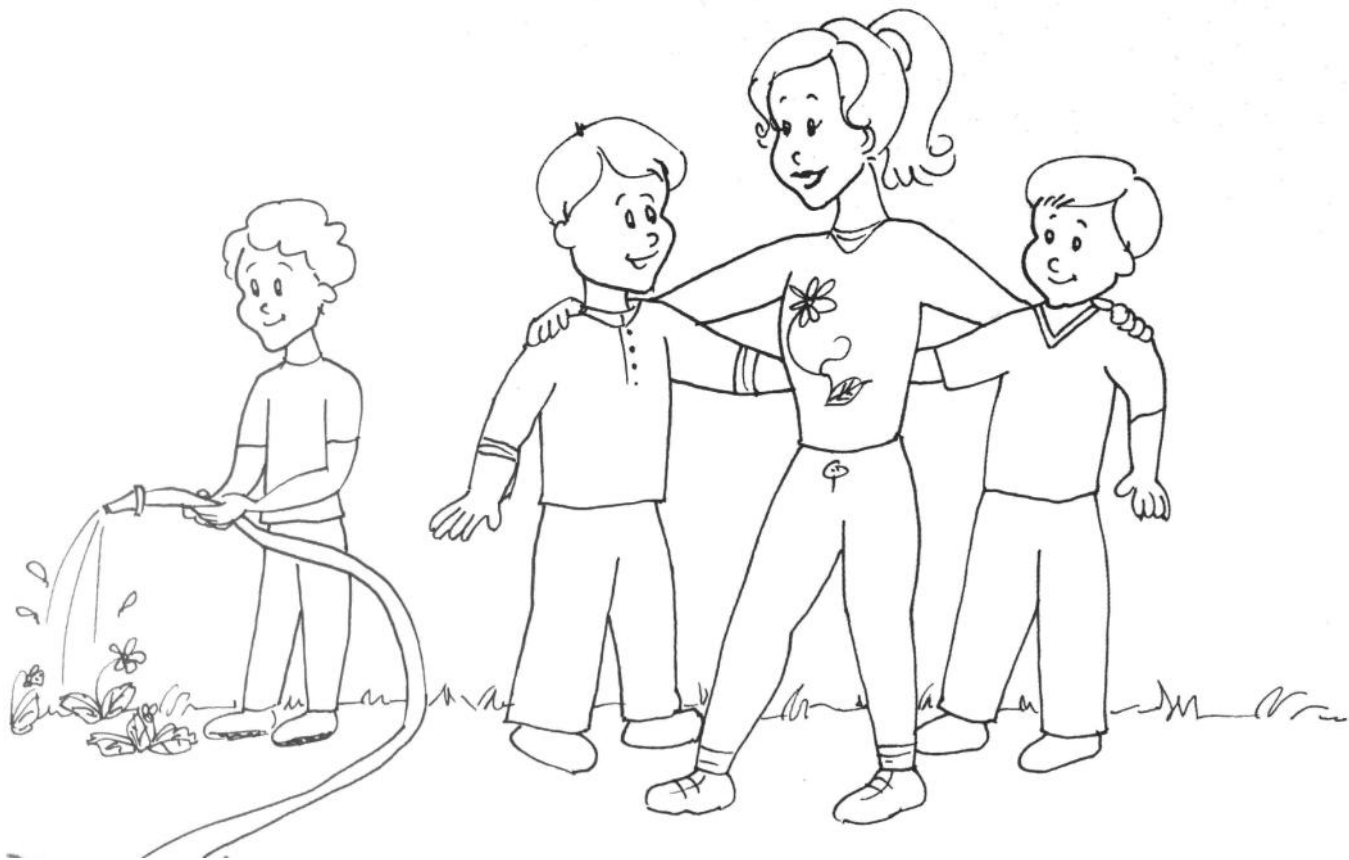
Teddy smiled. Then they looked at each other and made a running dash around the yard, racing as they were singing out the siren sound of an ambulance.

It was a fun game they liked to play. It was their way of saying they wanted to be a quick help to each one in their family, whenever they needed help.



Ned decided to join them in the race, but rather than try to out-run Tony and Teddy, he held on to one of Teddy's hands, and Tony took his other.

The three boys enjoyed the friendship they had. The more they were willing to stop and help each other, even if they were "busy" with other things, the happier they would all be.



Mother smiled as she set up the hose, getting it ready for Teddy to do some watering. She called out, “These strawberry plants need some rescuing. They are very thirsty. Is there a Teddy-ambulance that can come and help?”

The older boys that were holding Teddy’s hands then gently ran with him over to the strawberry patch, with their vocal sirens sounding all the way.

“Wonderful boys!” their mother said, and gave each one of them a hug.



While Teddy watered the plants, he was imagining how big and juicy the strawberries would get. And how they would be red too, just like some rescue vehicles are.

Then Tony got a thought, and said,

“When we help others, then they can help us! Just like these strawberries will help us one day by being a great snack!”

The boys nodded, and then went off to finish helping in the garden.

