

A photograph of three black and tan puppies, likely Rottweilers, sitting on a wooden ledge. They are looking towards the right. The puppy on the left has a white patch on its chest. The puppy in the middle has a white patch on its chest and a white patch on its face. The puppy on the right has a white patch on its chest. The background is a wooden wall.

**The Project
and
The Puppy
—Part 1—**

NED—18

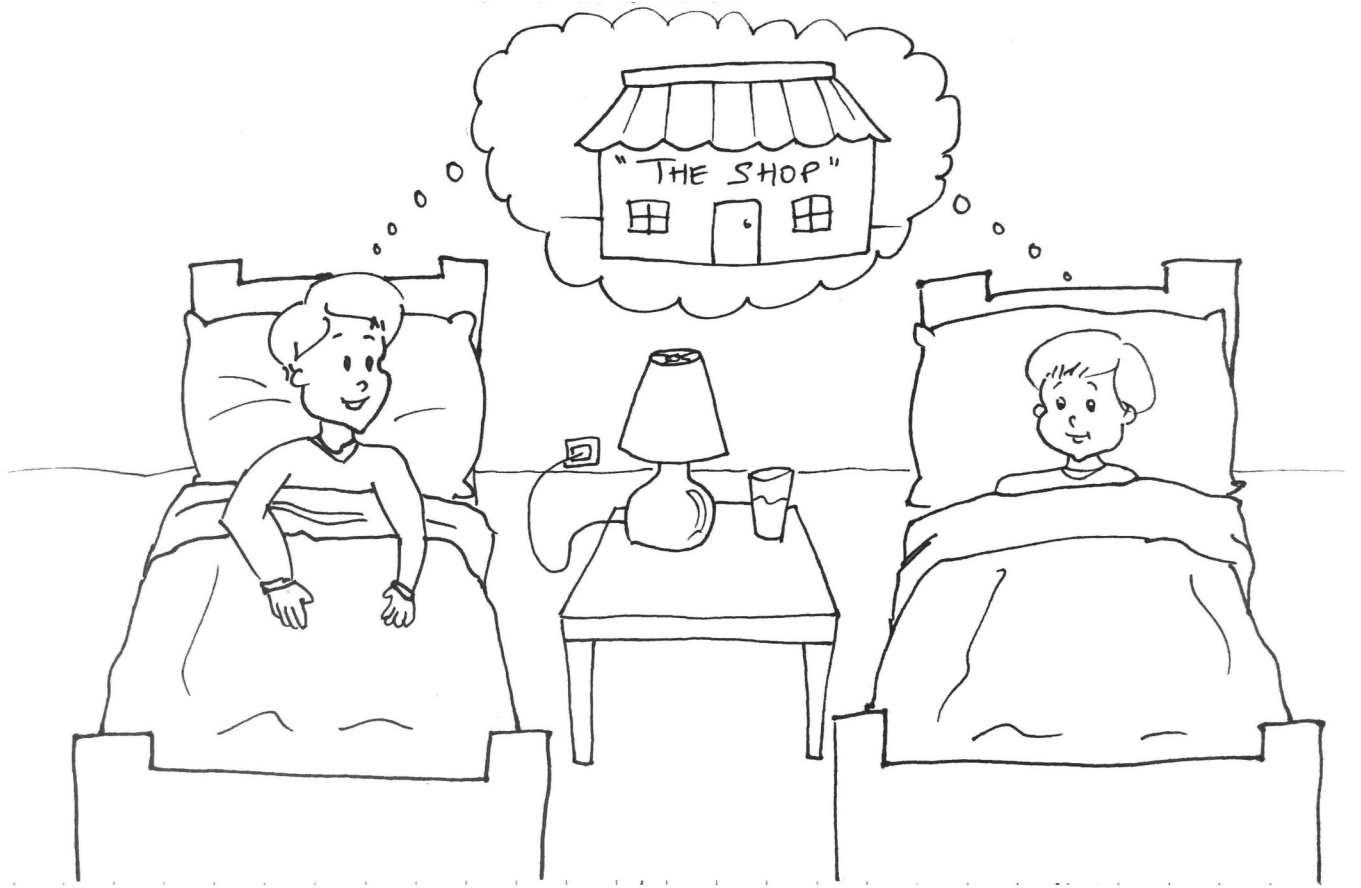
The Project and the Puppy **—Part 1—**

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Illustrated by Fleur Celeste

Dedicated to my three wonderful boys!

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Today was a special day of going out on a special mission. Ned and Tony were out with Mother. They were going to meet a kind shop owner who wanted to give them a special gift.

He had offered for them to come on this day and choose whatever food supplies they needed from his shop, and he would give it to them for free.

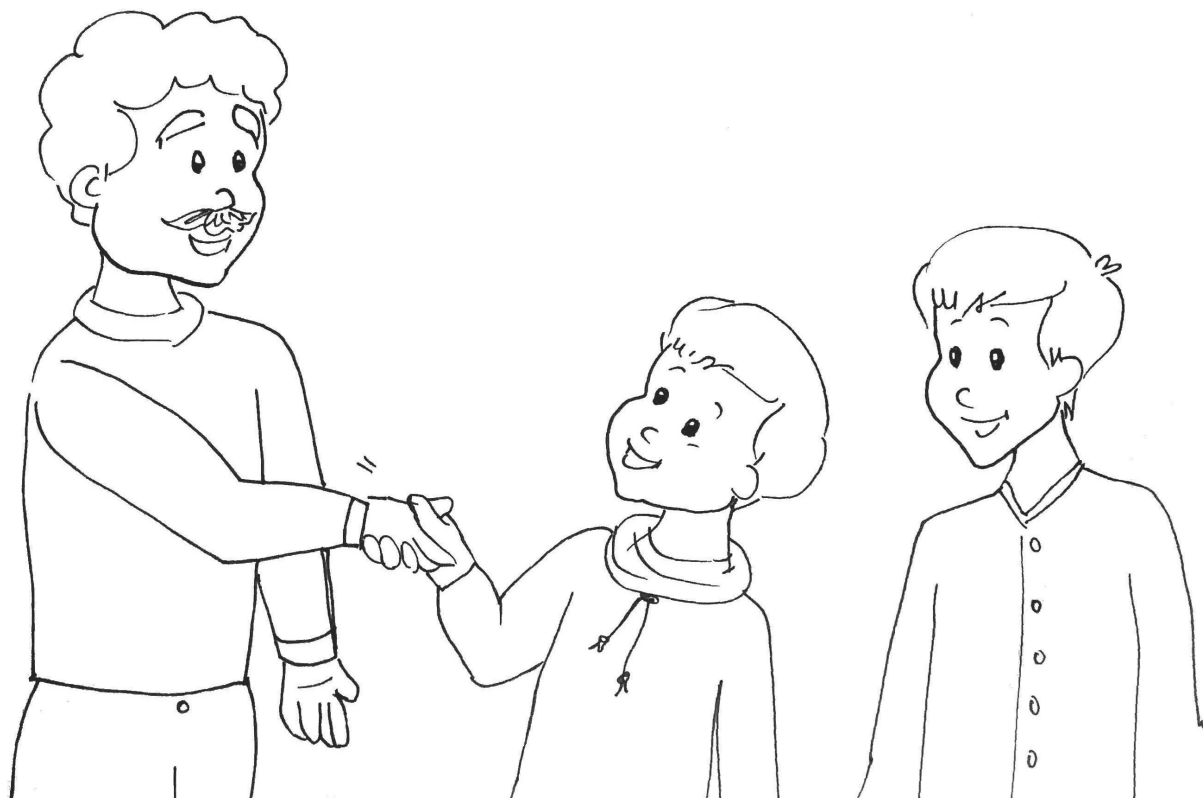
It was nearly Christmas time and their family wanted to do something special for those who didn't have much food to eat.



The shop owner would do his part in sharing some supplies, and Mother would cook the food. Together as a family, they would then deliver nice meals to some needy families that they were going to visit.

It is nice when people want to do deeds of kindness for others; and it is nice when people kindly accept the gifts that are offered. It makes the givers feel happy.

When Mother and the boys arrived and met the shop owner, the boys remembered their good manners and said, “Good morning!” and Ned reached out to shake his hand.



“Good morning to you, young man!” he said to Ned.

“Good morning, Sir! My name is Ned,” Ned replied.

“Nice to meet you!” said Tony, as he then shook the man’s hand.

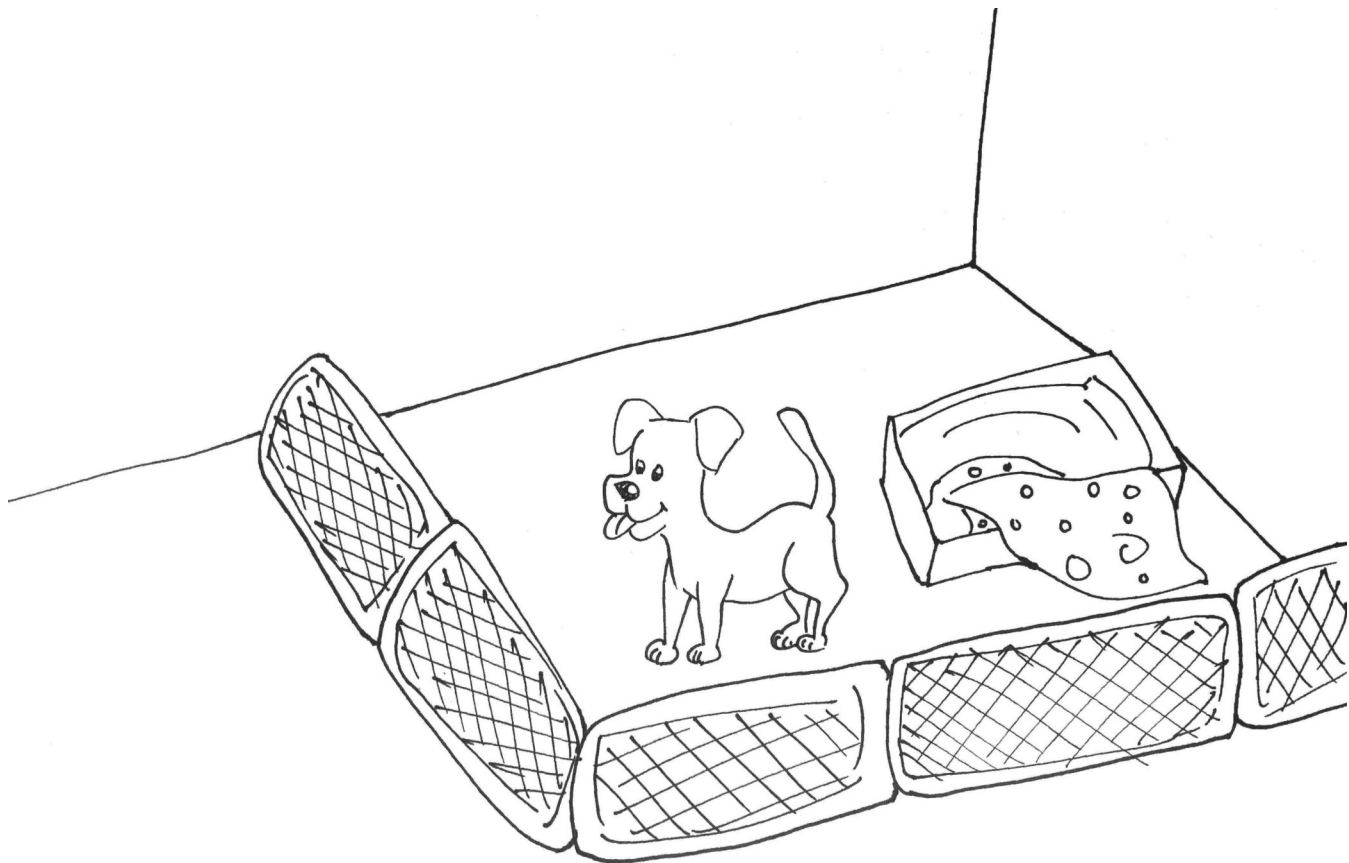
“And what’s your name?” the shop owner asked him.

“My name is Tony and I’m four years old,” he said.

“Well, I’m so glad to see you, all!”

“Thank you for inviting us,” said Mother.

“We are so happy to come to your shop,” the brothers added.



“Do you know what?” said the man. “I have a new little puppy. Would you like to see him?”

Ned and Tony’s eyes opened wide and they shook their heads and said, “Yes!”

“Come with me!” He led the boys and their mother to his office down a little hallway. There they saw an area penned off, and in it was a cute little black puppy sitting in a little puppy box bed.

“What’s his name?” Tony asked.

“His name is Black Pup,” the man replied.

“That’s the perfect name for him!” Ned commented.



“Okay, have fun and enjoy your shopping time,” the shop owner said to this little family.

“Thank you so much!” Mother said and shook his hand. “You are helping to make many families happy!”

“I’m very happy to help,” he replied.

“I’ll see you later!”

So off they went, pushing the shopping cart through the shop, picking out the items they needed to make some good and healthy meals for others.



Since there was only one shopping cart, and both boys would like to push it, Ned was the first to offer,

“Tony, I want you to be happy. You can have a turn with the shopping cart first. I’ll help Mother take the food off the shelves.”

“That was kind of you. Thank you so much,” said their mother. “I need your help, Ned. Where should we go first? Since you are sharing and giving Tony the first turn with the shopping cart you can choose where we’ll go first.”

Ned thought, “Hmmm. I’d like to go to the bananas first, please.”



“All right, to the fruits and veggies we go!” Mother said, showing the way.

Tony pretended to turn on the shopping cart, as if it was a car, and made driving noises all the way over to the bananas. (Brrrrrumm!)

Ned helped pick up a big bunch of bananas.

“Oh, it is heavy.”

Mother helped to put it in the shopping cart gently, so as not to bruise any, and they continued on going around the shop.

After a while Tony said, “Ned can have a turn with the shopping cart.” So they swapped.



“That was very nice of you boys to kindly share the shopping cart. And you were both a great help to me. You were patient, also, and didn’t complain,” Mother complimented Tony and Ned.

“Since you were such a big help to me, here is a prize for you both to share.”

“What is it?” they wondered.

It was a new sticker pack with shiny car stickers, along with a colouring pad and coloured markers to use. Mother had this saved in her purse for a few days, ready to give them out at the right moment.

The boys were so glad they had shared kindly and behaved nicely at the shop.



Tony and Ned smiled. They were glad they made their mother happy. And they knew it would make the shop owner happy that he had invited them. Perhaps he was even watching them from his office, on the screen that showed what the surveillance cameras in the shop were filming.

When they were done with the food shopping, they went back to see the man and say thank you.

The shop owner said to Mother,

“I am so glad to see you are happy helping others. And your boys are kind and helpful. I’m glad to be a part of this project. More loving kindness is just what everyone needs.”



Then he turned to the boys and added, “Maybe next time I see you, you can come and visit my house nearby and you can see how the puppy is doing.”

“Oh, yes!” Tony and Ned really wanted to go to his house and see the puppy again sometime. That sounded fun.

“Why don’t you come again in a week, and you can also tell me about your project, and how it went with giving the meals to the families,” the shop owner said.

And so it was planned that their family would be back next week, to visit his house.

(Continued in “The Project and The Puppy”—Part 2)

