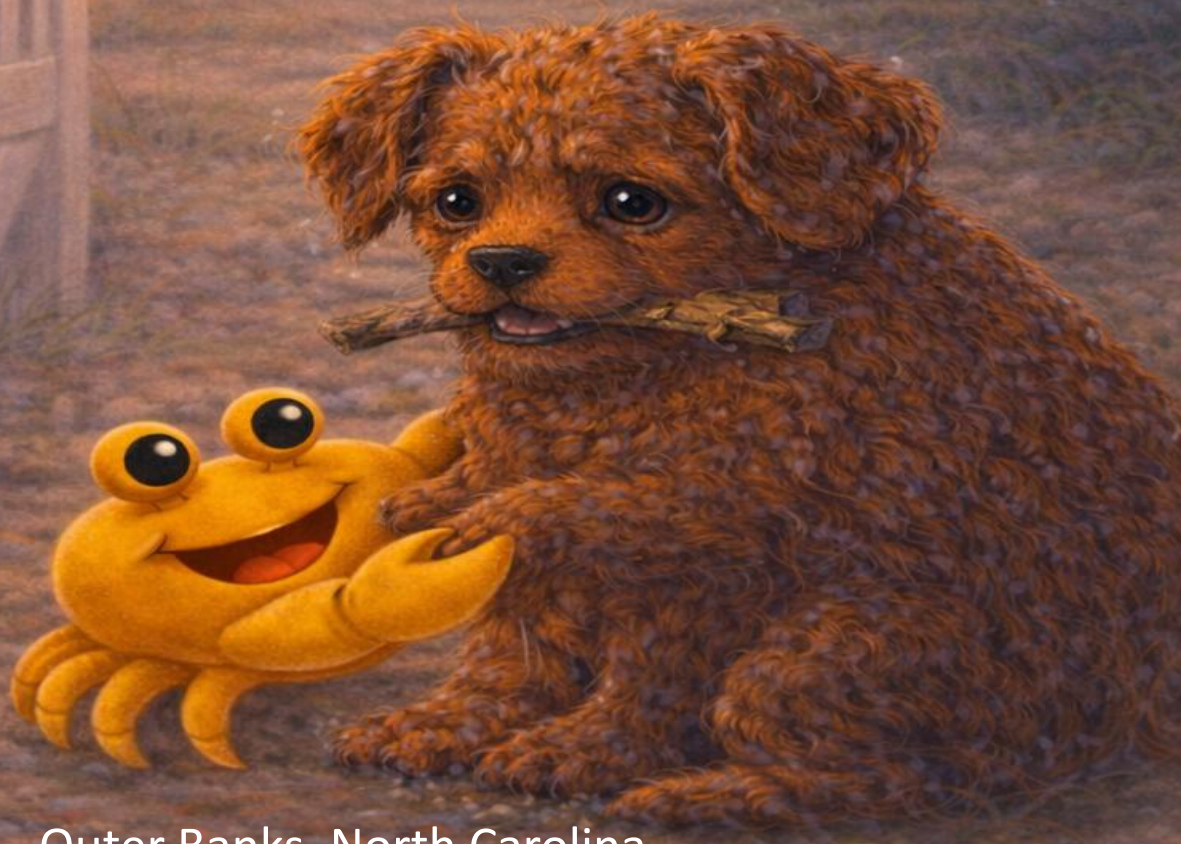


# The Kindness Corner

A Dunehopper Story About Helping Animals



Outer Banks, North Carolina



## Forward

This storybook was created by the Outer Banks Coastal Conservation (OBCC), a nonprofit organization whose mission is to foster environmental stewardship and a deeper connection to the Outer Banks of North Carolina through outreach, education, and conservation efforts.

We believe that small stories can spark big change. That is why we have made this book available as a free resource for parents, teachers, and community members.

All materials in this book may be freely downloaded, shared, printed and used for educational or nonprofit purposes.

To learn more, access additional resources at: [www.theobcc.org](http://www.theobcc.org).



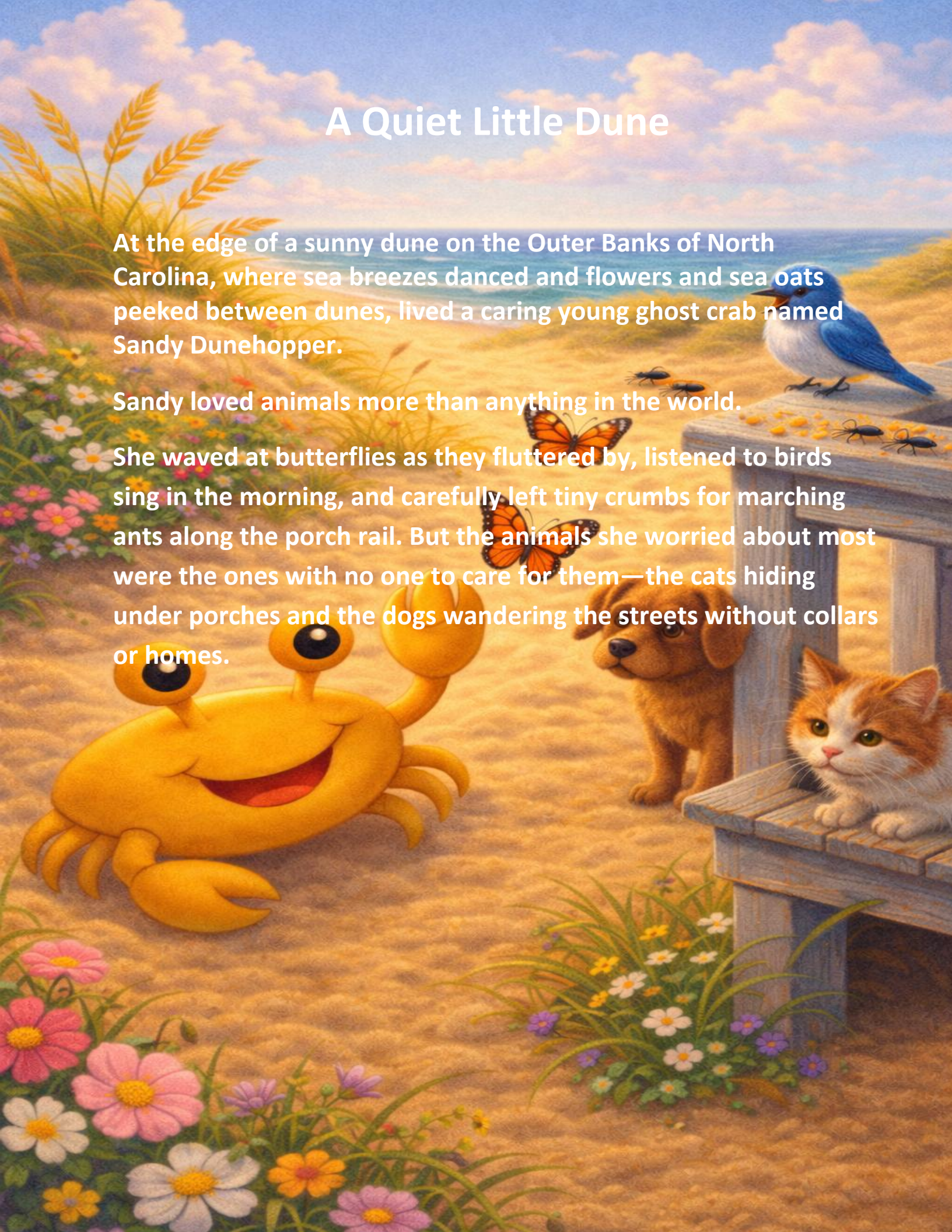


# A Quiet Little Dune

At the edge of a sunny dune on the Outer Banks of North Carolina, where sea breezes danced and flowers and sea oats peeked between dunes, lived a caring young ghost crab named Sandy Dunehopper.

Sandy loved animals more than anything in the world.

She waved at butterflies as they fluttered by, listened to birds sing in the morning, and carefully left tiny crumbs for marching ants along the porch rail. But the animals she worried about most were the ones with no one to care for them—the cats hiding under porches and the dogs wandering the streets without collars or homes.





# The Shivering Dog

One rainy afternoon, Sandy spotted a small brown dog curled beside a trash bin near the dunes. Its fur was muddy and its eyes were full of fear.

She knelt down, whispering gently,

“It’s okay, little one. I won’t hurt you.”

Sandy hurried to Mama and asked if she could share some of Pedro the Dunehoppers’ dog fod.

“Yes, Sandy, said Mama. “I feel sorry for these poor homeless animals. We’ll try to help them as much as possible.”

Slowly, the dog crept forward, sniffed Sandy’s claws, and wagged its tail for the first time in days.

That moment, Sandy smiled — and so did the dog.





# The Cat Rescue

One warm afternoon, Sandy heard a soft sound drifting across the sand.

“Mew... mew...”

She followed the tiny cries to a patch of sea oats near the dunes. There, curled together and trembling, were three tiny kittens—hungry, scared, and all alone.

“Oh no,” Sandy whispered gently. “You’re safe now.”





She hurried home as fast as her little crab legs could carry her.

Mama and Papa Dunehopper sprang into action. They warmed milk, found a cozy box, and helped Sandy feed the kittens drop by drop. Soon, the kittens' bellies were full, their purring filling the room like soft music.

"You saved them," Papa said proudly.

Sandy smiled and shook her head.

"No," she said softly. "They saved me. They showed me what love feels like."





# The Kindness Corner Begins

Before long, word spread through the neighborhood.

A neighbor brought a limping cat.

Someone else found a lost puppy.

One day, a frightened little rabbit arrived, trembling in the shade.

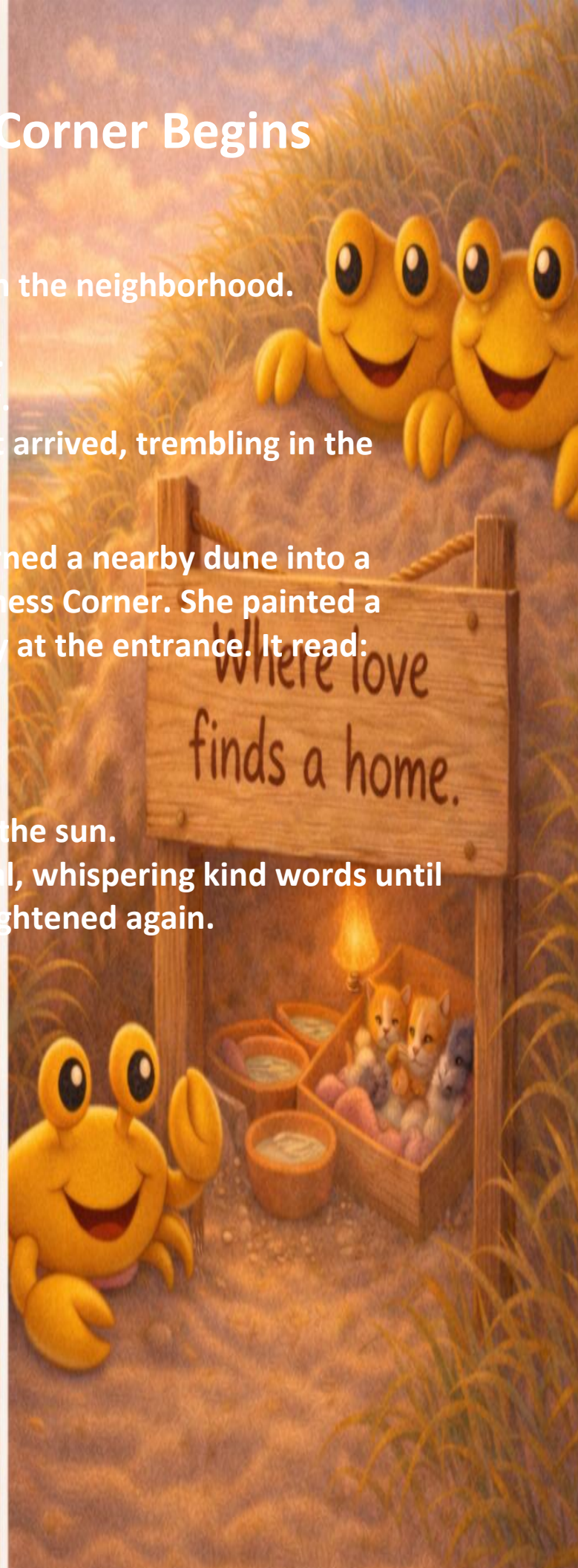
With her parents' help, Sandy turned a nearby dune into a special place she called The Kindness Corner. She painted a wooden sign and hung it carefully at the entrance. It read:

"Where love finds a home."

Old blankets became cozy beds.

Fresh bowls of water sparkled in the sun.

Sandy gently brushed each animal, whispering kind words until their fur shone and their eyes brightened again.





# Love Grows When You Share It

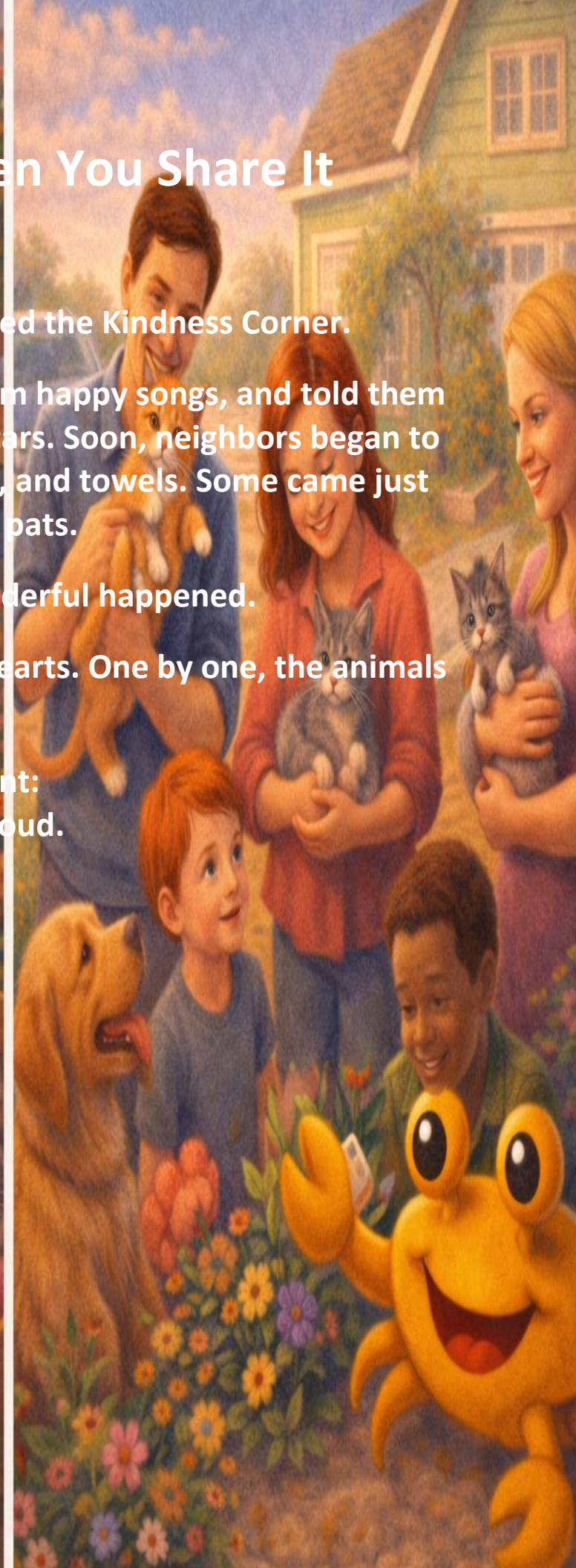
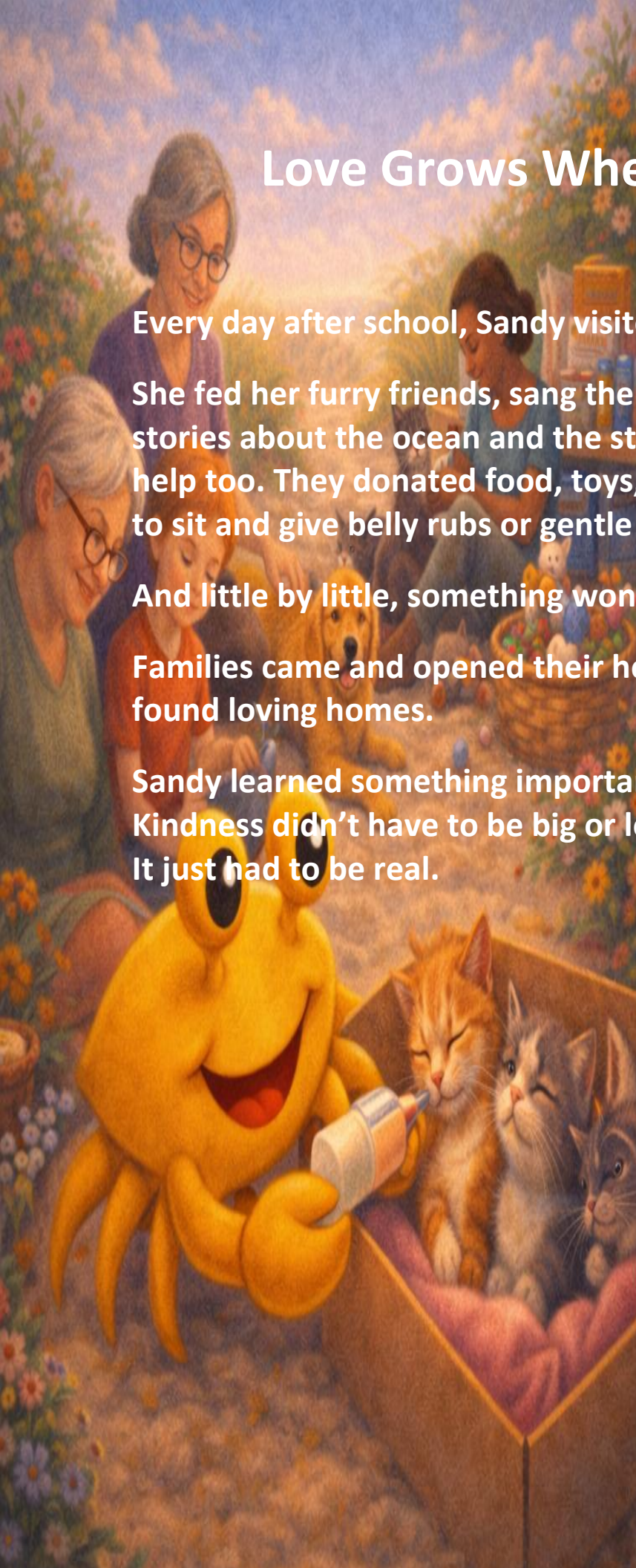
Every day after school, Sandy visited the Kindness Corner.

She fed her furry friends, sang them happy songs, and told them stories about the ocean and the stars. Soon, neighbors began to help too. They donated food, toys, and towels. Some came just to sit and give belly rubs or gentle pats.

And little by little, something wonderful happened.

Families came and opened their hearts. One by one, the animals found loving homes.

Sandy learned something important:  
Kindness didn't have to be big or loud.  
It just had to be real.





# A Forever Friend

One quiet evening, as Sandy closed the gate, a familiar brown dog came trotting toward her.

It was Buddy—the very first dog she had ever helped.

He wagged his tail wildly and dropped a small stick at her feet like a treasure.

Sandy laughed and hugged him tight.

“You’ll always have a home here, Buddy,” she whispered.

Buddy wagged as if to say,

*“You’re my home too.”*





# The Circle of Kindness

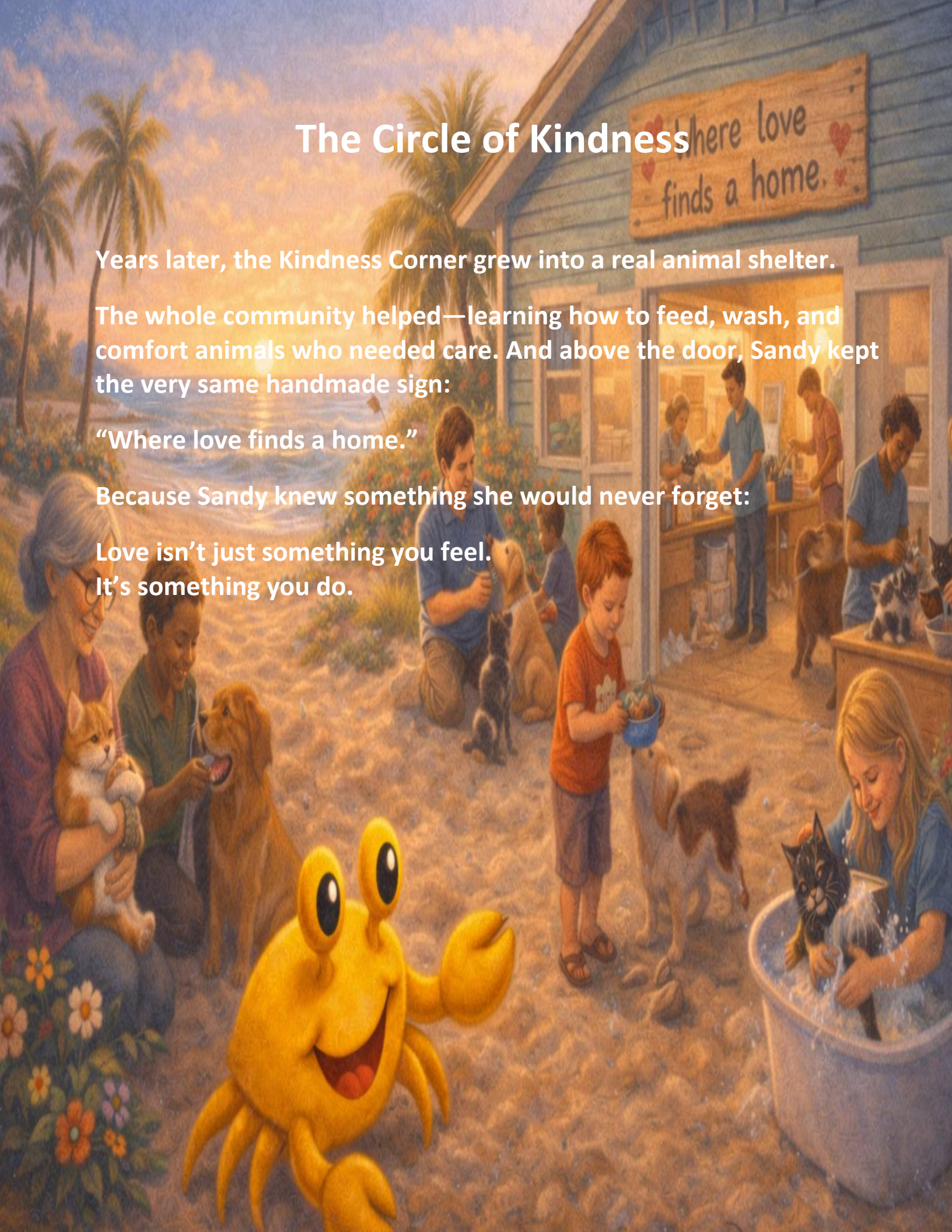
Years later, the Kindness Corner grew into a real animal shelter.

The whole community helped—learning how to feed, wash, and comfort animals who needed care. And above the door, Sandy kept the very same handmade sign:

“Where love finds a home.”

Because Sandy knew something she would never forget:

Love isn’t just something you feel.  
It’s something you do.





# Did You Know?

- Animals have feelings — they feel love, fear, loneliness, and pain just like we do. Treating them with kindness makes a real difference.
- Every year, over 3 million cats and dogs enter U.S. shelters — often because they were abandoned or lost. Many find loving homes thanks to caring people!
- Declawing cats is inhumane — It's not just removing the nails, but amputating part of each toe, which can cause lifelong pain and behavior problems. Instead, provide scratching posts, mats, and regular nail trimming to keep your cat happy and healthy.
- Never abandon a pet. If you can't care for one, contact a no-kill shelter or rescue for help — compassion saves lives.
- Spaying and neutering pets prevents unwanted litters and helps keep animals healthier.
- Never hurt an animal—our hands are for helping, loving, and protecting.
- Even the smallest acts — offering water, showing gentleness, or calling for help — can bring comfort and hope to an animal in need.





# Kindness Pledge

"I promise to treat all animals with love and care.  
I will never turn away from one in need.  
I will speak softly, help gently, and remember —  
kindness makes every heart feel at home."

