

## (2) Joey's Stop Sign

One summer day, Joey and Jenny were playing soccer in their yard. "Goal!" yelled Jenny, ready to celebrate. The ball didn't fly into the net, but straight to the busy street! Jenny, focusing on winning, raced after the ball.

"Wait, Jenny!" Joey shouted, his voice full of worry. In a flash, a car rushed past Jenny. It almost ran her over and turned their soccer ball into a sad, flat pancake.

Later that night, a serious mood filled the air. "There seem to be way more cars on our street lately," Jenny said, frowning. "Crossing the street to get to school is getting scary!"

A recent accident came to Joey's mind. He added, "Yeah, remember Mrs. Murphy's dog, Lucy? Last week, she got hit by a car trying to cross! Her leg was broken, poor thing."

Determined to make their street safer, Joey and Jenny talked to their parents that night. "We believe there's a way to make crossing the street safer," Jenny said. "If there were stop signs at the corners, it could slow down the cars and make it easier to cross."

Their mom's face lit up. "Stop signs? That's a great idea! You've been counting cars like we talked about, right?"

"Yep!" said Joey proudly. "We've been counting how many cars go by before and after school." Jenny said, "We even took pictures of people trying to cross the street!"

"That's a great plan!" their dad said. They learned about a way to collect votes for their idea, called a petition. With their parents' help, they wrote a petition explaining why they needed stop signs.

The next week, Joey and Jenny became neighborhood ambassadors. They knocked on doors and told people about their mission. Many people readily signed the petition, but some others weren't sure why they needed stop signs.

"There's a city council meeting next week," Joey told Mrs. Murphy, their friendly neighbor across the street. "Dad asked if they could talk about our stop sign idea."

Jenny added, her voice a little shaky, "We'll bring our petition, the pictures, and the traffic counts we did too."

The city council meeting was a big deal! The room was packed with curious neighbors, friends, and family. As their turn got closer, Jenny squeezed Joey's arm. Her stomach felt like butterflies. "I'm nervous," she whispered.

Joey squeezed back. "Me too," he admitted, "but we can do this!"

Standing before the council, Joey explained why they needed stop signs, mentioning the increasing traffic and the scary experience they had with the soccer ball. Jenny presented the overflowing petition and the pictures, showing how hard it was to cross safely.

"Thank you for your hard work, Joey and Jenny," the council president said with a smile. "We'll talk about your idea and vote on it in two weeks."

The two weeks felt like forever. Finally, the phone rang! Jenny answered, holding her breath. "They voted yes!" she screamed, jumping for joy.

A few months later, shiny new stop signs stood tall at the intersections. That's a victory for Joey and Jenny's hard work. The local paper even wrote a story about the two young heroes with a picture of them!

Gazing at the bright red stop sign, Joey said, "This street feels way better now, right?" A happy bark confirmed his words. "Woof!" agreed Lucy, her tail wagging with renewed confidence.