

# A STILL SMALL VOICE...

**WHEN MATTHEW WAS 6 YEARS OLD,** HIS FAMILY ADOPTED A DOG NAMED GINGER. AN ELDERLY MAN, BECAUSE OF ILLNESS, COULD NO LONGER KEEP HER. MATTHEW WANTED TO KNOW WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED TO GINGER IF SHE HAD NOT FOUND A HOME SO QUICKLY, SO HIS PARENTS TOOK HIM TO THE LOCAL ANIMAL SHELTER.

**IN THE DESPERATE FACES OF THE CAGED ANIMALS THERE, MATTHEW FOUND HIS CAUSE.**

OVER THE LAST SIX YEARS, MATTHEW HAS CONTINUED TO VISIT THE CATS, DOGS, RABBITS AND OTHER CREATURES AT THE SHELTERS. HE TALKS TO THEM, TAKES THEM TOYS AND TOWELS, IN AN EFFORT TO MAKE THEIR LIVES A LITTLE MORE COMFORTABLE.

**AT 10 YEARS OF AGE,** MATTHEW WISHED TO FIND A MORE SUBSTANTIAL WAY TO HELP ABANDONED ANIMALS. IT WAS HIS IDEA TO ASK PEOPLE TO MAKE DONATIONS TO HIS CAUSE, INSTEAD OF BIRTHDAY GIFTS TO HIM.

AS PART OF THE DONATION PROCESS, IT WAS IMPORTANT TO MATTHEW TO UNDERSTAND HOW THE MONEY WOULD BE SPENT, SO HE STARTED ASKING QUESTIONS.

THAT'S WHEN MATTHEW MET CHERYL, A VOLUNTEER FOR HART. CHERYL SPOKE TO HIM OF HART, OF HOW THE STRAY, INJURED AND ABANDONED ANIMALS ARE RESCUED, PROVIDED AND CARED FOR AND THEN PLACED FOR ADOPTION TO FOREVER HOMES. SHE SPOKE TO HIM ABOUT THE MEDICAL CARE THE ANIMALS OFTEN NEED AND ABOUT HOW HIS DONATIONS COULD HELP PAY FOR MEDICATIONS, SURGERIES, SPECIAL FOOD AND EQUIPMENT, TO SUSTAIN AND REHABILITATE THEM.

**IN THE PAST YEAR, MATTHEW HAS DONATED OVER \$400. TO HART.** HIS FUNDS HAVE PAID FOR THE SPAY AND VACCINATION OF CLARICE, NOW ADOPTED TO A FOREVER FAMILY OF HER VERY OWN.

RECENTLY TWO YOUNG PUPS, FILMORE AND FIONA, HAVE FELT THE ADVANTAGE OF MATTHEW'S GENEROSITY. PREMIUM FOOD AND SUPPLEMENTS WERE PROVIDED TO REHABILITATE THEM FROM THE RAVAGES OF STARVATION. VACCINATIONS WILL KEEP THEM SAFE FROM THE RISK OF VIRAL CONTAMINATION. NOW HAPPY AND HEALTHY, FILMORE HAS FOUND A SPECIAL FAMILY OF HIS VERY OWN. HE IS ADOPTED. FIONA GREETES EACH DAY JOYFULLY, CONFIDENT AND CAREFREE IN HER RESCUER'S HOME. A WONDERFUL FAMILY IS CURRENTLY BEING SCREENED FOR HER ADOPTION.

**FROM CLARICE, FILMORE, FIONA AND INDEED ALL THE ANIMALS YOUR SWEET SPIRIT HAS TOUCHED, HART FELT THANKS GO OUT TO YOU MATTHEW. YOUR STILL SMALL VOICE CARRIES A POWERFUL MESSAGE OF SELFLESSNESS AND COMPASSION, AN ACT OF TRUE CHARITY TO HUMBLE US ALL.**



**"THE CHILD IS FATHER OF THE MAN."**  
~ WILLIAM WORDSWORTH (1770-1850)