

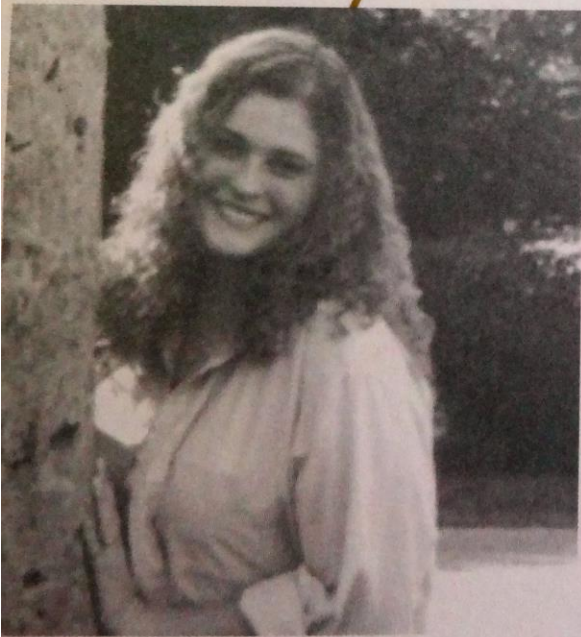
Was one of six winners of the Seventeen/CoverGirl Volunteerism Awards in 1999.

"6 teens who dared to change the world"

Excerpts from the June 1999 magazine and from the program booklet follow.

Kat began volunteering at age nine, serving hot lunches to the elderly through Meals on Wheels of Manatee, Florida. By age 14 she had moved on to fund-raising, and planned the World's Largest Easter Egg Hunt for Meals on Wheels. It was so big, it made the Guinness Book of World Records! At age 16, she founded the ManaTEEN club to promote youth volunteerism. Today, it's the largest, locally-based teen volunteer project in the country, with more than 8,000 members providing 500,000 hours of

# kathryn "kat" mckell



bradenton, florida

community service annually in Southwest Florida. On average, Kat, 22, spends 20 hours a week promoting ManaTEEN, developing initiatives and new programs for the organization and doing hands-on volunteering. Additionally, Kat has been involved with the Easter Seal Society of Southwest Florida, AmeriCorps and the AIDS Council of Manatee. A true role model, she's currently attending a local community college and learning sign language to assist her local deaf service center. Kat also hopes to go to medical school and become a pediatrician.





For Kate - Heart Full,  
Keep others + seek  
Justice for all.  
Just Love

# A CAPITOL TIME

As an early spring snowstorm dusted D.C., our winners excitedly toured the Capitol, dined at local hot spots and even did some hands-on volunteering at Jumpstart. They met First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno and Brandy at



The winners (minus Aubyn, whose arrival was delayed by the bad weather) began their whirlwind visit to Washington, D.C., with a stop at the United States Capitol. The universal opinion? "Inspiring."



At Jumpstart D.C., an early-literacy program funded by AmeriCorps, Kat enjoys a game of tag on the playground with her new pals Diamond and Michael.

Brandy, who helped present the awards, bonded with the six winners. "I sang 'My Heart Will Go On' with Brandy!" said Megan. "I can't believe it!"



**KATHRYN "KAT" McKELL,  
DADENTON, FL**

THERE IS REALLY **NOTHING MORE  
IMPORTANT** THAN HELPING OTHERS."

**The inspiration:** For as long as she can remember, Kat, 22, has been volunteering. She started at age nine, serving hot lunches to the elderly through Meals-on-Wheels. By the time Kat entered high school, she noticed that many of her friends had lots of free time on their hands. "I was so frustrated looking around my community and seeing all the problems that existed," says Kat. "And then I realized that I go to school with all these kids who could be doing something to help out."

**The challenge:** In 1994, Kat, then 15, founded The ManaTeens, an organization to promote youth volunteerism. She and a few friends launched a club with a program called ManaTeen, in which more than 20 teens volunteered their time to paint houses for people in need. Then they began contacting local volunteer agencies to see if there else they could help. Gradually, ManaTeens were assigned to community service projects in 318 participat-

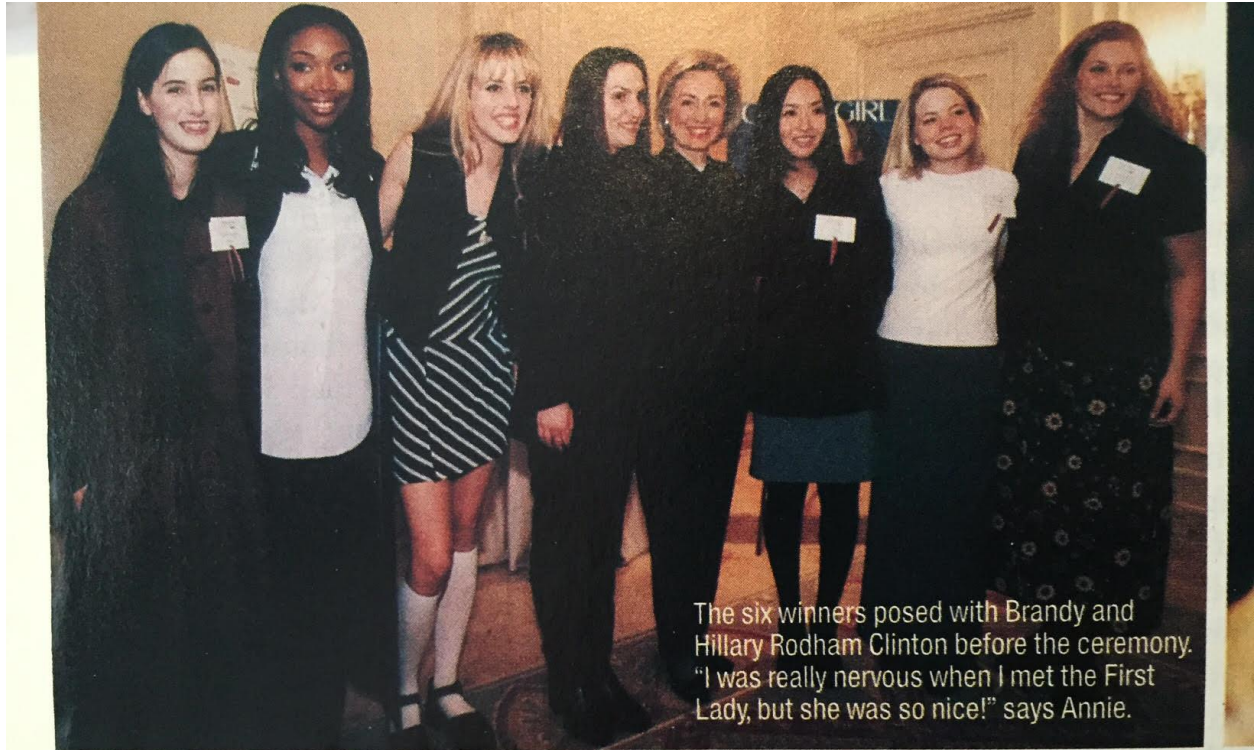
ing agencies around the county. "We try to put teens in places where they can help out and also learn valuable skills," says Kat.

**The results:** Today, ManaTeens' 8,000 members provide thousands of hours of service to more than 300 volunteer organizations in southwest Florida. This extraordinary commitment has helped show the community that teens *can* make a difference. "Many adult organizations don't realize how a teen can help," says Kat.

**The future:** Now a premed student at Manatee Community College in southern Florida, Kat still devotes 20 hours a week to her organization and is particularly excited about her latest project: a temporary shelter system for homeless women. She is also developing a core group of ManaTeens who can show other teens around the country how to start their own clubs.

**How you can help:** To organize your own ManaTeens Club, call the Florida office at 941-746-7117 or e-mail them at [Manateens@aol.com](mailto:Manateens@aol.com). Another good resource: Youth Service America, 202-296-2992.

—A.F.



The six winners posed with Brandy and Hillary Rodham Clinton before the ceremony. "I was really nervous when I met the First Lady, but she was so nice!" says Annie.

# MESSAGE FROM W

used to read **seventeen** magazine," Hillary applaud the



Kathryn McKell  
Seventeen/Cover Girl Awards  
March 18, 1999