

chART CHARITIES
MISS AMERICA
OUTSTANDING TEEN (MAOT)
Interview with Kim Parrish, President MAOT



Caitlin Brunell, Miss America's Outstanding Teen 2008, at a dress distribution event for Youth for Tomorrow participants.

Q. What is your organization?

A. Miss America's Outstanding Teen, Inc. was organized to encourage positive achievement by helping to nurture and build the scholastic achievement, creative accomplishment, healthy living and community involvement of our nation's youth. Among its initiatives, the Miss America's Outstanding Teen hosts a national competition in Orlando intended to encourage and reward the talent, communication skills, community service, and academic achievement of girls between 13 and 17 years of age. The Miss America's Outstanding Teen awards scholarships to individuals on the basis of academic merit and civic and social achievement.

Q. What is an accomplishment you are proud of?

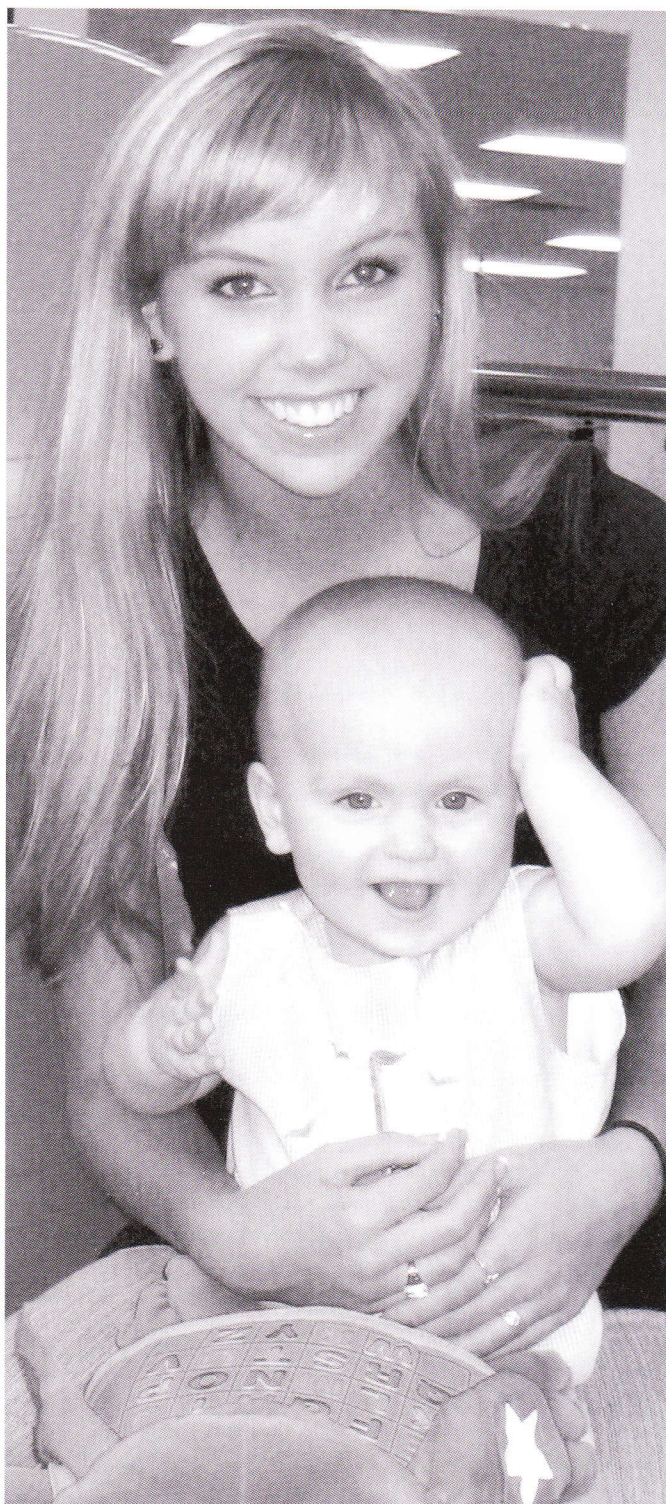
A. The "little sister" to the Miss America Scholarship Organization, this not-for-profit program has made available more than \$2 million in college scholarships nationally to young women from 13 to 17 years of age.

Q. What is a current challenge?

A. Current challenges facing MAOT are raising scholarship funds and spreading the positive message about the organization throughout the host city of Orlando as well as nationwide. We are constantly searching for new product and event sponsors and scholarship donors.

Q. Describe a life your organization has touched.

A. Each year, one representative is chosen as Miss America's Outstanding Teen and they spend their year of service embracing a platform of their choice. Last year, Caitlin Brunell, of Jacksonville, spearheaded a program



Taylor Fitch, Miss America's Outstanding Teen 2009, with a child helped through Children's Miracle Network, the national platform for MAOT.

called Caitlin's Closet which collected gently used prom gowns and distributed them to girls who would otherwise not be able to afford to attend their proms. Caitlin collected over 6,000 prom gowns and distributed them in ten states across the country. One young lady involved in Joe Gibb's organization called "Youth for Tomorrow" described the experience as "a dream come true," citing that she had never owned a dress and that she felt beautiful for the first time in her life.