

Oprah

My celebrity hero is Oprah. She grew up poor. She was born in Mississippi and later moved to Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She lived with her mother for a really long time and had several brothers and sisters who died. She later moved to Tennessee with someone that was really close to her family. At age 14 she had a child, but he died when he was a baby.

Oprah had several jobs that led to her getting famous. First, she had a radio show around the age of 19. After that she became the first female, black news anchor in Nashville. After that she was hired to do the 6 o'clock news as an anchor. Then she was hired to co-host *Dialing for Dollars* TV show. Finally, in 1986 she received her own TV show called *The Oprah Winfrey Show*. She was the first female talk show host.

Oprah grew up poor and didn't want other people to feel the same way she did when she was younger. Also when she was younger she was abused. The death of her son and her siblings played a toll on her. All of these hardships led to her wanting to help others.

So on her talk show, Oprah gave away items to others in need like cars, money, appliances, and other items. She also does a lot of charity work around the world. In her time Oprah has supported many charities. Like how she supported Free The Children and The Red Cross.

In 2007, Oprah opened a school for girls in South Africa that were unprivileged and in need of education. The school had over 3,000 applicants but, only about 127 were accepted. The school offers grades 7-12. When Oprah had the opening ceremony for the school, there were many famous people that came to support the opening like Tina Turner. Oprah said that she felt inspired to open the school because of the poor conditions that she lived in as a child and she wanted the girls to have opportunities that she didn't have. Oprah said she'll support the girls through college until they can support themselves and have a nice family.