



Carrie Underwood Checotah's Own

Carrie Underwood was born in Muskogee, Oklahoma, March 10, 1983, but Checotah lays complete claim to her as a native. Carrie's parents are Stephen and Carole Underwood of the Onapa area. Carrie has two older sisters, Shanna Underwood Means and Stephanie Underwood Shelton.

Carrie has delighted Checotah folks with her singing since her elementary school days. During high school, she sang in the school's award-winning chorus. She excited audiences every year at the Robbin Emerson Memorial Talent Show, which raises money for scholarships. She was kind enough to sing the National Anthem at basketball games. Carrie excelled academically and was the salutatorian of the 2001 Checotah High School graduating class.

Carrie attended Northeastern State University after high school. She returned after American Idol to major in mass communications with an emphasis in journalism. She performed for two years in Northeastern's Downtown Country Show in Tahlequah.

Carrie auditioned in August 2004 in St. Louis for the American Idol television show. Following her audition, Carrie was invited to Hollywood to compete as one of the top twenty-four finalists. Carrie's trip to Hollywood was the first time she ever set foot on an airplane; and the rest is History.

Since winning American Idol in 2005, Carrie has gone on to lead a very successful career in country music, releasing three albums: *Some Hearts*, *Carnival Ride*, and *Play On*. Carrie was inducted into the Grand Ole Opry by Garth Brooks on May 10, 2008. She was named Entertainer of the Year at the Academy of Country Music Awards in the summer of 2010. She is the only country female artist in history to win this award twice. Her fourth album, *Blown Away*, is set to be released on May 1, 2012.

Carrie stays connected to her home town of Checotah in many ways. In August, 2009, she visited Checotah High School where she gave a presentation on stage, sang with a young girl in front of students and faculty and donated over \$117,000.00 worth of musical instruments to the music programs at Checotah's schools. She most recently donated \$350,000.00 to each of the four schools in Checotah - Marshall Elementary, Checotah Intermediate School, Checotah Middle School and Checotah High School - to help fulfill various needs such as computer labs, physical fitness equipment, playground equipment, band uniforms and many other items. In 2010-2011 she helped fund the building of the Checotah Animal Shelter. Carrie formed the Checotah Animal Town and School Foundation C.A.T.S. to benefit her hometown.

While people in Checotah and Oklahoma are extremely proud of Carrie's phenomenal talent, they are even more proud of the kind of young person she has been. Carrie Underwood is intelligent, kind, and considerate. She is undoubtedly one of the finest young women anyone will ever meet.

On July 10, 2010, Carrie married pro hockey player, Mike Fisher.



CARRIE UNDERWOOD CREATES HOMETOWN FOUNDATION "C.A.T.S."

Checotah Animal, Town, and School Foundation click [here](#) for more info



Playground photos courtesy of Checotah Chamber of Commerce



Carrie came to town in October, 2011 to help build new playground equipment for Checotah schools. Thanks Carrie!