South Africa. As that commitment broadened, she established The Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy Foundation, to which she has contributed more than $40 million toward the creation of the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for GirlsSouth Africa, which opens in January 2007. Located in a 28-building campus in Henley-on-Klip, the Leadership Academy is a state-of-the-art independent school that will engender high standards of academic achievement and service leadership for girls. Its first 152 accepted 7th and 8th grade students, who show outstanding promise despite their impoverished backgrounds and social circumstances, represent all nine South African provinces. By 2011, the Leadership Academy will accommodate approximately 75 learners per grade, for a total of approximately 450 learners, grades 7 through 12. Her vision is that the Leadership Academy will help develop the future women leaders of South Africa. In a 1997 episode of *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, Oprah encouraged viewers to use their lives to make a difference in the lives of others, which led to the creation of the public charity Oprah's Angel Network in 1998. To date, Oprah's Angel Network has raised more than $50 million, with 100% of audience donations going to non-profit organizations across the globe. Oprah's Angel Network has helped establish scholarships and schools, support women's shelters and build youth centers and homeschanging the future for people all over the world. Oprah's commitment to children also led her to initiate the National Child Protection Act in 1991, when she testified before the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee to establish a national database of convicted child abusers. On December 20, 1993, President Clinton signed the national "Oprah Bill" into law.

Television Programming Creator:

In September 2002, Harpo Productions, Inc. created *Dr. Phil*, a syndicated daytime talk show produced by Paramount Domestic Television. *Dr. Phil*, which had the highest-rated talk show launch since *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, consistently ranks second among all U.S. talk shows. Dynamic television personality and best-selling author Rachael Ray announced a partnership with Harpo Productions, Inc., King World Productions, and Scripps Networks to host a daily, one-hour, talk show that began airing in September 2006.

Satellite Radio Programmer:

Through a recent joint venture, Oprah announced the launch of *Oprah & Friends*, a new channel on XM Satellite Radio, which launched in September 2006. *Oprah & Friends* will feature a broad range of original daily programming from Harpo Radio, Inc., including regular segments hosted by popular personalities from *The Oprah Winfrey Show* and *O, The Oprah Magazine* and an exclusive 30-minute listener call-in weekly radio show, "Talk to Me" with Oprah Winfrey.

Broadway Producer:

Twenty years after she made her movie debut as "Sofia" in *The Color Purple*, Oprah made her Broadway debut as a producer for the musical *The Color Purple*, which opened on December 1, 2005, at the Broadway Theatre in New York City.

Honorary Achievement:

In recognition of her extraordinary achievements and contributions, Oprah has received numerous honors, including the most prestigious awards and highest industry acknowledgments, like *Time Magazine*100 Most Influential People in the World- 2006, United Nations Association of the United States of America Global Humanitarian Action Award'2004. Oprah and *The Oprah Winfrey Show* received more than 40 Daytime Emmy Awards®: seven for Outstanding Host; nine for Outstanding Talk Show; more than 20 in the Creative Arts categories; and one for Oprah's work as supervising producer of the ABC After School Special *Shades of Single Protein*.

Personal Life:

Winfrey currently lives on "The Promised Land", her 42-acre (170,000 m²) ocean and Mountain View estate in Montecito, California, outside of Santa Barbara. Rumors state that Winfrey was at a party the previous owners were throwing and fell so in love with the estate that she was reported to have purchased it by writing a personal check for $50,000,000 USD, although it was not for sale. Winfrey also owns a house in Lavallette, New Jersey, an apartment

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in Chicago, an estate on Fisher Island off the coast of Miami, a ski house in Telluride, Colorado, and property on the island of Maui, Hawaii.

Winfrey and her partner Stedman Graham have been together for over 20 years.Winfrey believes that the reason she never had children was because her students at South Africa's Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for girls were meant to be her daughters.

Winfrey's show is based in Chicago, so she spends time there, specifically in the neighborhood of Streeterville, but otherwise resides in California. She purchased one property on Maui, Hawaii, which was featured on the cover of *O at Home* and on her TV show.

To celebrate two decades on national TV, and to thank her employees for their hard work, Winfrey took her staff and their families (1065 people in total) on vacation to Hawaii in the summer of 2006.

Oprah Winfrey is the epitome of strength and confidence for women all over the world. She fights against injustice and tries to make this world a better place for everyone especially the coming generation. She is an ideal human being, an icon, a legend and we all are proud of her!

(Information collected from www.oprah.com and www.wikipedia.com)