

**UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, DC 20549**

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**FORM 8-K**

**CURRENT REPORT  
Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the  
Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

Date of report (Date of earliest event reported): **December 7, 2004**

**CARTER'S, INC.**

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Charter)

**Delaware**  
(State or Other Jurisdiction  
of Incorporation)

**001-31829**  
(Commission  
File Number)

**19-3912933**  
(IRS Employer  
Identification No.)

**1170 Peachtree St. NE, Suite 900 Atlanta, Georgia**  
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

**30309**  
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: **(404) 745-2700**

(Former Name or Former Address, if Changed Since Last Report)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (*see* General Information A.2. below):

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
  - Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
  - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
  - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))
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Item 8.01 Other Events

On December 7, 2004, Berkshire Partners LLC ("Berkshire"), a private equity firm whose investment funds (the "Berkshire Funds") own approximately 37% of the common stock of Carter's, Inc. (the "Company"), issued a press release announcing a distribution of 3.0 million shares of Company stock to both the general partner and limited partners of the Berkshire Funds. A copy of this press release is being furnished as Exhibit 99.1 to this Report on Form 8-K.

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(c) Exhibits:

99.1 Press Release issued by Berkshire on December 7, 2004.

**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

CARTER'S, INC.

Date: December 7, 2004

By: /s/ Michael D. Casey

Name: Michael D. Casey  
Title: Executive Vice President and  
Chief Financial Officer and Secretary

2

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#### EXHIBIT INDEX

The following designated exhibits are incorporated by reference or filed with this report, as indicated:

99.1 Press Release issued by Berkshire on December 7, 2004.

3

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Contact: Berkshire Partners LLC  
Jeanine Neumann 617-227-0050

## **BERKSHIRE PARTNERS ANNOUNCES A DISTRIBUTION OF CARTER'S COMMON STOCK**

Boston, MA — December 7, 2004 — Berkshire Partners LLC (“Berkshire”), the Boston-based private equity firm, announced today a distribution of 3.0 million shares of Carter’s, Inc. (NYSE: CRI) (the “Company”) common stock by investment funds it manages (“Berkshire Funds”). The shares will be distributed to both the general partner and limited partners of the Berkshire Funds.

Berkshire partnered with management in August 2001 to acquire Carter’s. The Company completed its initial public offering in October 2003 and a secondary offering in September 2004. Prior to the IPO, the Berkshire Funds owned 20.3 million shares, representing approximately 85% of the Company. Prior to the current distribution, the Berkshire Funds owned 10.3 million shares representing approximately 37% of the Company. After the distribution, the Berkshire Funds will own 7.3 million shares representing approximately 26% of the Company. In connection with the secondary offering in September 2004, the Berkshire Funds, as well as the Company’s executive officers and directors, entered into lock-up agreements expiring December 23, 2004, which were terminated today.

The distribution is consistent with Berkshire’s long term strategy as a private equity firm to realize value for its investors. The distribution will also increase the market float for Carter’s stock. Bradley M. Bloom and Ross M. Jones, Managing Directors of Berkshire, are members of the Company’s Board of Directors.

### About Berkshire Partners LLC

Berkshire Partners has invested in mid-sized private companies for the past twenty years through six investment funds with aggregate capital commitments of approximately \$3.5 billion. The firm’s investment strategy is to seek companies that have strong growth prospects and to partner with talented management teams who are interested in being owners of the companies they operate. Berkshire has developed specific industry experience in several areas including consumer products, industrial manufacturing, transportation, communications, business services, and retailing and related services. Berkshire has been an investor in over 80 operating companies with more than \$11.0 billion of acquisition value and combined revenues in excess of \$15.0 billion. Additional information may be found at [www.berkshirepartners.com](http://www.berkshirepartners.com).

### About Carter’s, Inc.

Carter’s is the nation’s largest branded marketer of children’s apparel for ages newborn to six years old. Carter’s branded products are sold through over 4,000 department and national chain stores and its 180 retail stores. Carter’s also sells products under its Child of Mine brand to Wal\*Mart and under the Tykes brand to Target. Additional information may be found at [www.carters.com](http://www.carters.com).

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