



Ann and Tim Jackson, Jr. "CamjStyle Shoes Just For Me, LLC
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- **AGE:** Tim, 61, Ann 60
- **HOMETOWN BIRTHPLACE:** Both are from Birmingham, Alabama
- **EDUCATION:** Tim: Master of Science in Library Media from Alabama A & M University. Ann Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Education from Grambling State University.
- **Experience:** Tim, Radio Gospel Announcer and Librarian. Ann: Accountant and Dialysis Consultant.
- **FAMILY:** Married 35 years. Three children, two boys and a girl and three grandchildren, two boys and a girl.
- **PHILOSOPHY:** Quality is never an accident. It is always the result of high intentions, sincere efforts and intelligent direction with skillful execution."

We are the founders of the CamjStyle Shoes Just for Me, LLC Company. The "j" is silent in Camj, which stands for Catherine Ann McClure-Jackson, Ann Jackson's full name.

We set up our company in December after working for several diabetic-supply companies. Our company has two divisions, one that furnishes a range of diabetic supplies and one that customizes shoes for people who just want a great pair of properly fitting shoes, like teachers, barbers, and others who are on their feet a lot. When we have travel across the United States and around the World ladies say all the time that when they wear shoes they get accustomed to a pain in their foot.

Shoes for diabetics have several options that commercial shoes may lack; additional heel support, and array of arch types and different toe boxes depending on the shape of the persons toes.

Two trips to the Caribbean last year have also led us to open up another venture - selling shoes in Haiti, where diabetes rates are extremely high and people often have their feet or legs amputated because of poor foot care. We are working with a clinic there, the Haitian Foundation for Diabetics and Cardiovascular Diseases, to offer the shoes on a plan developed by Ann Jackson and Dr. Nancy Charles Larco whose father and mother are the founders of the clinic.

Diabetics are the primary users of the shoes we offer through their Medicare, Medicaid and Private Insurance Company, but we believe that almost everyone can benefit from shoes that fit properly. Diabetic shoes can cost \$300 to \$900 a pair; Medicare pays for a pair annually. We also believe that people that are not diabetic can be served with shoes that fit properly with the added protection of comfort. My wife and I are both in our 60's and we know what many of our clients are going through because I suffer from peripheral neuropathy in my feet after I slipped on some black ice in 2003 my nerves were damaged in my neck and back which was caused by the fall.

My wife, Ann, who was a dialysis consultant at what was then Bowman Gray School of Medicine, nursed me through a painful recovery. At one time, I was taking 17 medications for pain, but now I am down to 4 pain pills a day, and I use an electronic device that allows me to block pain signals to the brain. In 2008, Ann Jackson looked into selling diabetic supplies in order to spend more time taking care of me. She talked me into taking the test for the job as well. Both passed and began working for the same company. I was not back to full health, but working together allowed my wife to keep an eye on me.

We have worked for several diabetic-supply companies and I retired in 1999 as the head of the East Winston Library. To increase the company's presence in the International business community, I immersed myself in the study of diabetes and wrote a White Paper about the increase of diabetes in Haiti, Trinidad/Tobago, and the Dominican Republic that got the attention of a diabetic-supply company who wanted to send me to the region. I went to the Caribbean in September. I was so moved by what I saw. I discussed it with my wife that we must return to Haiti in November and we stayed for eight days and fitted people for shoes at the clinic.

Half of the children diagnosed with diabetes in Haiti die of the disease. Women often must decide whether to spend their money on medicine for their diabetic child or buy food for the rest of their children. When my wife and I returned from Haiti to Winston-Salem, we learned that the company we were working for had closed its Winston-Salem office. In December, we decided to form our own company.

Dr. David Mount, the Director of Community Outreach partnerships and patient advocacy at the Maya Angelou Center for Health Equity works with patients at the Downtown Health Plaza and invited my wife and I in for a seminar last fall. The foot scanner was an excellent way for people to understand what was going on with their feet. Dr. Mount said that "What this technique does is help people feel empowered." After his patients looked at the images of their feet on the scanner, they had a better understanding of how diabetes was affecting their feet and had a new sense of urgency about buying the right shoes.

Having the right shoes means eliminating foot pain, which makes it easier for people with diabetes to participate in the physical activities that help manage their illness. Dr. Mount said that our visit was so successful that patients asked for us to come back and share other resources. Dr. Mount has now included us in working with another group at the clinic that deals with chronic pain. We demonstrated the new cold and hot therapy vital wrap system which helps people to manage chronic pain. If we can improve the quality of life and inform patients with access to the very best technically advanced durable medical equipment, we will have contributed in a small way of making life better for many.