

Achilles Prosthetics & Orthotics

While Achilles Prosthetics and Orthotics is recognized today as one of the most successful producers of orthopedic equipment and prostheses in the Central Valley and Central Coast, this family-run business has grown from humble beginnings.

Back in 1976, when co-founders Daniel Newton, CP, and David Wegner, CPO, met in the prosthetics program at UCLA, the two quickly became friends. At that time, Wegner was working for Bakersfield Orthopedic Appliances in Bakersfield, where Newton would also come to work that year.



ACHILLES
PROSTHETICS AND ORTHOTICS

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But the friends were ready to strike out on their own. Newton and Wegner had a desire to bring the latest technology and techniques that they’d learned at UCLA to the Bakersfield community. So, with the help of Wegner’s mother’s financial support, the two opened Achilles in 1978.

It wasn’t always smooth sailing, but the duo persevered, providing valuable services to local residents.

“The first few years were a struggle; getting the business off the ground,” Newton, who serves as president of Achilles, explained. In 1981, the company showed a net loss.

However, it would be the only year in the company’s history to be in the red as year

after year since then, Achilles has grown steadily.

That growth included buying out the company that employed Newton and Wegner, both Fellows of the American Academy of Orthotists and Prosthetists, years prior. Achilles purchased Bakersfield Orthopedic Appliances in 1986 and moved the operations to the location they have today, coming full circle.

With a passion for patient care and a drive to provide the most state-of-the-art prosthetics and orthotics for both adults and children, Newton



Kim Davis; Daniel Newton, C.P.; Nathan Whiting; Sheri Newton, M.F.; Logan Newton, B.O.C.O.; David Wegner, C.P.O.



Original location, 1978



and Wegner began opening offices in other areas of California including Santa Maria and San Luis Obispo.

In 1994, Daniel’s brother, Donald Newton, CPO, joined the business, managing the Santa Maria office.

Daniel’s son, Logan Newton, BOCO, would also feel the pull to

join the business. Which he did in 2004. “I knew from around the age of eighteen that I wanted to go into a profession in which I could help people, as well as allow myself to express my creativity and artistic abilities,” he said. “I feel that our field is truly amazing. We have the ability to build an artificial limb that

allows someone the chance to walk again or a brace that helps relieve pain. There’s nothing better than going to work and knowing you’re making a difference in someone’s life.”

That’s what Sheri Newton, Daniel’s wife, thought, too, when she joined the company as a mastectomy fitter.

In 2006, Achilles received facility accreditation from the American Board of Certification in Prosthetics and Orthotics (ABC) and the Board of Certification International (BOC).

Today, the entire staff works hard to ensure that every patient that walks through their doors has a positive experience and leaves with the highest quality product. It’s a mission statement that will help Achilles thrive in the future, when grandson Dustin Newton, currently gearing his college education to the field of prosthetics and orthotics, will be ready to join the family business.



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