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NEWS RELEASE

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Achilles Prosthetics and Orthotics Opens Cutting-Edge Santa Barbara Facility

Juan Sebastian Valtierra is an active 12-year-old boy. With a busy competitive figure skating schedule and volleyball games, he doesn't have time for his prosthetic leg to fail him. But that's exactly what happened last spring, in the thick of his sport season and school activities. When his regular prosthetist Los Angeles was unavailable, insurance refused to work with other offices, and local facilities refused to see him without a referral, he found his way to Achilles Prosthetics and Orthotics. He wheeled into their Santa Maria office, and walked out after certified prosthetist orthotist Donald Newton fixed him up.

"My son was so frustrated because he had so many activities planned at school that week that he thought he wouldn't be able to be a part of, but Achilles fixed the leg immediately without question. I feel so fortunate to have found them," said Patricia Valtierra, Juan Sebastian's mother.

"When someone comes into your office in a wheelchair, and then they walk out smiling, that's a good day. That's a really good day. I live for those moments improving someone's quality of life. It's always rewarding," Newton said.

While she would drive any distance to keep her son walking, skating, running and spiking, Patricia is thrilled with the opening of Achilles Prosthetics and Orthotics newest location at 1435 State Street in Santa Barbara. Within 15 minutes of their Carpinteria home, they now have access to the 2,400-square-foot facility which includes three exam rooms, a large gait room, and dedicated parking spaces steps away from the door.

"We are so excited for Juan to receive his first modern carbon fiber and active prosthesis. The care he is getting now surpasses anything we have ever experienced," said Patricia.

Achilles Prosthetics and Orthotics opened in Bakersfield in 1978. It expanded to the Central Coast with offices in San Luis Obispo, Templeton and Santa Maria before its latest opening here in Santa Barbara. All offices feature top-of-the-line prosthesis and orthotics tailored to meet each patient's needs and lifestyles. Whether it is for the active life style of a child like Juan, or from marathon runners to motorcycle riders, each and every patient receives custom solutions to help them reach their physical potentials. The Santa Barbara office also offers 3-D scanning for prosthetic legs and arms as well as cranial remolding orthosis for infants.

"There was a need in this community. We had physicians from Solvang, Goleta and Santa Barbara offices referring patients to us in our northern offices. They really encouraged us, and told us that the community could really use our services. We've enjoyed a great reputation for almost 30 years in business on the central coast and we felt like we could bring our mission of

providing the highest quality prosthetics and orthotics available anywhere to this community,” Newton said.

Achilles operates a little different than most prosthetic and orthotic companies and their loyal following of patients are proof of this. “We believe in a complete medical team approach to helping every patient. The doctor, the occupational and physical therapist and the prosthetist/orthotist. We are all part of a team to help every patient reach their new potential and live as much of an active life as each patient can. Patients and their families must come first and a team approach is one of the best way to accomplish this,” Newton said.

In addition to serving its own patients, Achilles Prosthetics and Orthotics will also make the gait room available to area physical therapists. The room includes gait training ramp and stair, Solo Step harness system, parallel bars, video gait analysis tools with treadmill and stationary bike.

“We’re a technically advanced office delivering extremely high-tech prosthetics. We have all the new microprocessor upper and lower limb prosthetics, with the latest in custom fitting technology,” said Keith Severson, Director of Patient Care and Services and also an amputee himself.

Newton will split time at the office with his nephew and Vice President, Logan Newton. Achilles will also be on call 24/7 to serve hospitals or rehabilitation facilities throughout the area.

“Once they come through our doors, patients can expect the highest level of care, a great staff, beautiful building that’s been completely remodeled inside. It’s gorgeous and everything is state of the art,” Donald Newton said.

For more information about Achilles Prosthetics and Orthotics, visit www.achillespo.com and www.facebook.com/AchillesProsthetics/.

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