



Retired CPA Lamar Chustz of Madison, Mississippi, is able to entertain and care for her grandchildren again after Campbell Clinic surgeons helped repair her tibia after a non-healing fracture. Pictured with her are, from left, brothers Steven and Samuel Chustz, and Mary Lamar Chustz and her brother, Coleman Chustz.

## **Campbell surgeons help lively grandmother resume the active life she envisioned**

**L**ike other members of the “Baby Boom” generation, Lamar Chustz of Madison, Mississippi, wasn’t planning to spend her retirement years in a rocking chair. Enjoying the outdoors, volunteering, traveling, and playing with her high-spirited grandchildren were all part of the future Lamar envisioned for herself.

That’s before a home accident involving a rolling refrigerator and a slippery surface threw a roadblock into Lamar’s plans, leaving her sidelined and unable to participate fully in some of the best years of her life.

## “Any young residents who are trained by these men will be blessed. These Campbell Clinic surgeons have given me my life back.”

— LAMAR CHUSTZ

### WHAT WAS I THINKING?

In August 2002, Lamar and her husband Steve were preparing to move an older refrigerator into the garage for storage. Steve hosed down the garage floor and driveway, then drove a trailer carrying the refrigerator up the drive. As he unhooked the ropes, Lamar saw the refrigerator start rolling across the trailer bed.

“I ran down the drive, thinking I would stop the refrigerator—as if I could have!” Lamar said. “Later, I kept asking myself, ‘What was I thinking?’ Anyway, I slipped on the drive.”

When she fell, Lamar felt her bone snap. Her right leg was broken, a compound fracture of the tibia. Her husband warned Lamar not to look. “Evidently, it was not a pretty sight,” she said.

She was transported by ambulance to a hospital emergency room in near-by Jackson. Through the fog of pain medication, Lamar heard one of the doctors say, “We may not be able to fix this.”

### WAITING FOR HEALING

Within a week, Lamar had undergone the first surgery on her badly-broken leg. “They put me back together with lots of plates and screws, but the tibia didn’t heal,” she said. “Later I learned that the kind of break I had, a distal tibia fracture, sometimes won’t heal because the blood supply is poor that low on the leg.”

The next spring, Lamar underwent a bone graft. In the fall, a year after the accident, a CT scan indicated little progress in the healing process. “I was getting discouraged,” she said. “That’s when I asked for the name of an expert in the field.”

Before the accident, Lamar’s life had been busy, filled with family, friends and activities. A Certified Public Accountant, she had practiced

while raising two sons. As the boys grew up, she became involved with their school, serving as a Trustee of Jackson Academy and later joining the staff as the school’s first Dean of Institutional Advancement. She retired from Jackson Academy in 2000.

“Steve and I had bought a home out from town, and I just wanted to be a grandmother and enjoy life,” she said. “I could see myself outdoors with the children, fishing, playing ball, catching lightning bugs. And then, the accident happened and for months I couldn’t drive, couldn’t do things for myself. I wanted to be able to pick up my grandchildren, to be active and independent again.”

### THE RIGHT PLACE: CAMPBELL CLINIC

Lamar was referred to Campbell Clinic’s Dr. Greer Richardson, a foot and ankle specialist. “Immediately, I knew we were in the right place,” Lamar said. “The clinic operated so efficiently that we didn’t mind the long drive. And Dr. Richardson is not only a wonderful surgeon but one of the finest men I have ever met. I just had complete confidence in him.”

In November 2003, Dr. Richardson performed surgery that included a graft with Lamar’s own bone. “After the surgery, I was able to do more, and I was grateful,” she said. “I started driving again. My husband and I went on an Alaskan cruise. But after a couple of years, I began having pain again and had to start wearing a brace. The bone was still not completely healed.”

In the fall of 2007, Dr. Richardson recommended that Lamar see Campbell Clinic’s Dr. Edward Perez, a trauma specialist who has dealt extensively with non-union fractures.

“When Dr. Perez performed surgery in January 2008, he removed all the plates and screws that had been put in my leg back in 2002,” Lamar said. “He inserted an intramedullary nail and did an INFUSE® Bone Graft, a procedure that is relatively new and has been successful with some non-healing fractures like mine.”

At her checkup in December 2008, a CT scan showed that Lamar’s tibia was finally healed. “Dr. Perez’s office called with the news just before the holidays, and my whole family celebrated,” Lamar said. “What a Christmas present that was!”

Lamar Chustz and her family made a donation to The Campbell Foundation in honor of Dr. Greer Richardson and Dr. Edward Perez. “Our gift recognizes two exceptional doctors and wonderful men,” Lamar said. “By giving to The Campbell Foundation, we hope to contribute to the education and development of more doctors like Doctors Richardson and Perez.”

— LAMAR CHUSTZ



Dr. Greer Richardson



Dr. Edward Perez