

University of Nebraska - Lincoln

DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln

---

Historical Materials from University of  
Nebraska-Lincoln Extension

Extension

---

1992

## NF92-83 Older People: Where Should They Go For Clothes?

Rose Marie Tondl

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/extensionhist>



Part of the [Agriculture Commons](#), and the [Curriculum and Instruction Commons](#)

---

Tondl, Rose Marie, "NF92-83 Older People: Where Should They Go For Clothes?" (1992). *Historical Materials from University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension*. 1454.

<https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/extensionhist/1454>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Extension at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in Historical Materials from University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.



# NebFact



Published by Cooperative Extension, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources,  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

## Older People: Where Should They Go For Clothes?

---

*Rose Marie Tondl, Extension Clothing Specialist*

---

The effect of the growing number of older Americans on the economy and the changing needs of the active senior citizens of the nineties is well documented.

In spite of the recently noted active lifestyle, affluent status, and ever rapidly growing number of older people, the physical challenges of the normal aging process can not be denied. Limited motion, wrinkled skin, changing posture, and sagging muscles are inevitable. Although these physical changes are not chronic or life threatening, they do affect how an older consumer functions.

Attractive and functional clothing can increase how older people cope by making them feel good about themselves. Clothes can enhance their self-image, self-esteem, satisfy their need for social acceptance and improve their appearance.

Appropriate clothing with specialized features can also make life easier. Shoulder openings in T-shirts to make getting dressed easier, full length sleeves to camouflage sagging muscles, and two-piece versus one-piece garments are some clothing modifications institutionalized older consumers prefer (Chowdhary, 1990, 1991).

Clothes designed for easy wear aren't restricted to persons with disabilities. Velcro fasteners, elasticized waistbands, and side seam loops to offer a holding grip for those with limited motion are examples of clothing modifications which might appeal to any older person.

Clothing can enhance the strengths of their physical body or camouflage the weaknesses resulting from the aging process, medical treatment or accidents.

Currently, several manufacturers design clothes that can be used by older people. Most of these companies are small and don't spend a lot of money advertising their products. Most of the manufacturers who design clothes for those with special needs are generally driven by compassion rather than a profit motive in mind.

## References

- Chowdhary, U. (1990). Notion of control and self-esteem of the institutionalized men. *Perceptual and Motor Skills*, 70, 731-738.
- Chowdhary, U. (1991). Clothing and self-esteem of the institutionalized elderly female: To experiments. *Educational Gerontology*, 17, 527-541.

## Acknowledgements

- Usha Chowdhary, Associate Professor, University of Missouri-Columbia
- Brenda Woods, Graduate Student, Textile and Apparel Management, University of Missouri-Columbia

## CLOTHING MANUFACTURERS/VENDORS

The following listing will help agencies on aging, caregivers, consumers, educators and family members. The companies who provide these types of clothing often don't prosper as fast as the mass merchandisers. They go in and out of business much faster than their larger more general counterparts. As you use this information contact the company by mail or phone. Don't be surprised if some companies are no longer in business. This list was compiled in the Fall of 1991 and Spring 1992.

1. **Ablewear Maddak, Inc.**  
Pequannock, NJ 07440-1992  
(800) 443-4926

*Price Range:* wide variation  
aids for daily living, home health-care, and rehabilitation

2. **Access with Ease, Inc.**  
P.O. Box 1150  
Chino Valley, AZ 86323

*Price Range:* \$5-13  
shoe horn, folding dressing stick, combi buttoner, and slip-on help

3. **Adaptability**  
P.O. Box 515  
Colchester, CT 06415-0515  
(800) 243-9232

*Price Range:* \$2-15  
button helper, stainless steel shoe horn, soft sock starter, pen/pencil and crochet grips, slip-on convenience, and economy dressing stick

4. **American Health Care Apparel**  
334 Church Street  
Easton, PA 18042  
(800) 252-0584

*Price Range:* \$2-99

colorful clothes for both men and women including a variety of comfortable shoes, garter belts and incontinent briefs

5. **Atco Orthoses for Men and Women**

450 Portage Trail  
Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44222

*Price Range:* not listed

incontinent apparel, splints and orthopedic canes for both men and women

6. **Avenues (Everest Jennings Avenues)**

3223 E. Mission Oaks Boulevard  
Camarillo, CA 93012  
(800) 848-2837

*Price Range:* \$12-245

up-to-date clothing for wheelchair users

Some garments have been designed by a person who has been wheelchair mobile for 22 years and dressy styles are featured.

7. **Bissell Healthcare Company**

Camp International, Inc.  
World Headquarters  
Jackson, MI 49204-0089  
(800) 492-1088

antron swimsuits, support bras, prostheses, Lymphedema sleeves for mastectomies, carries postural, lumbosacral, and other "neoprene orthopedic supports"

8. **Bruce Medical Supply**

411 Waverly Oaks Road, Box 9166  
Waltham, MA 02254  
(800) 225-8446

*Price Range:* \$2-475

wheelchairs and accessories, diabetic accessories and supplies, drainable ostomy, laryngectomy and tracheostomy supplies, fashion stoma scarf, turtle-neck stoma cover, posture support, arthritis gloves, inflatable neck pillow, wonder walkers, and cane accessories are some of the highlights (most of these are under \$20)

9. **Buck and Buck Apparel**

4115 S. W. Arroyo Drive  
Seattle, WA 98146  
(800) 458-0600

*Price Range:* \$2-60

Regular and adaptive clothing for men and women in nursing homes (variety of colors and styles), footwear for both men and women

10. **Caring Concepts**

744 Roble Rd, Suite 190  
Allentown, PA 18103  
(800) 462-3456  
caringconcepts@usa.net

*Price Range:* \$3-40

adaptable and basic clothing items for women and men including dresses, dusters, activewear, sportswear, Muu-Muus, sleepwear, underwear, hosiery, socks, shoes and slippers, plus miscellaneous items

11. **Classique Inc.**

6502 Northwest, 36th Street  
Miami, FL 33166  
(613) 546-5224

*Price Range:* \$20-180

post mastectomy fashion, swimwear featuring high quality

12. **Comfort Clothing**

21 Harvey Street  
Kingston, Ontario K7K5C1  
(800) 327-1332

*Price Range:* \$7-89

apparel for women, special occasion dresses, button fastened dresses, everyday dresses, zipper front dresses, pullovers, mix and match nauticals, lounge wear, and night wear

13. **Comfortably Yours**

2514 East 43rd, Box 182216  
Chattanooga, TN 37422-7216

*Price Range:* \$8-129

apparel for women, shoes, garden supplies and appliances

14. **The D'Yampert Collection**

824 Dakin Avenue  
New Orleans, LA 70121

*Price Range:* \$22-81

Catalog of smart, elegant fashions. Features include velcro, snaps, and long zippers. Armholes are full for comfort, and all styles are in wonderful, bright colors. Sizes range from XS, S, M, L, and XL.

15. **Enrichments for Better Living**

145 Tower Drive, Box 579  
Hillsdale, IL 60521  
(800) 323-547

*Price Range:* wide variation

innovative products for home or travel to make life more comfortable, improve health and lighten the workload

16. **Exceptionally Yours**

60 Joseph Road, Box 3246  
Framingham, MA 01701

*Price Range:* \$15-25  
sweatsuits

17. **FashionAble for Better Living**

5 Crescent Avenue, Box 5  
Rocky Hill, NJ 08553  
(609) 921-2563

*Price Range:* \$6-48  
shoe stretcher, metatarsal cushions, foot care pads and cushions, slip-on dressing aids, stocking pull-on, button-aid, anti-snore foam collar, ankle and knee supports, various types of gloves, socks and warmers, knitted vests, garter belts, posture bras, thigh protectors, incontinent briefs, and slipper socks

18. **Fashion Ease Catalog**

M & M Healthcare Apparel Co.  
1541 60th Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11219  
(800) 221-8929

*Price Range:* \$15-30  
Easy-care, easy-to-wear garments. Apparel has adaptive closures and snaps to facilitate dressing. Back closure clothing is also available.

19. **For Your Comfort Special Needs Clothing**

3372 Fieldstone Drive  
Doylestown, PA 18901  
(215) 794-3406

*Price Range:* \$10-36  
Handcrafted soft, warm, and comfortable apparel for those with low mobility.

20. **Ginny-Jac Designs**

Box 263  
Jefferson, NY 12093  
(607) 652-7994

*Price Range:* \$30  
vest for teaching independence in dressing

21. **Hen's Nest**

Box 531  
Colby, KS 67701

(913) 462-3104

*Price Range:* \$25 (average)  
children's and women's clothing

22. **J. C. Penney Easy Dressing Catalog, Catalog Division**

Atlanta, GA 30390-0370  
(800) 222-6161

*Price Range:* \$18-65  
apparel including shoes and accessories with innovative use of velcro

The styles focus on comfort, ease in dressing, independence and versatility in use of mainstream clothing.

23. **Henson Kickernick**

Box 1026  
Greenville, TX 75403  
(903) 408-5181

*Price Range:* \$7-35  
bras

24. **Jobst Products Catalog**

Box 653  
Toledo, OH 43694-0653  
(800) 537-1063  
(800) 228-2736 (in Ohio)

*Price Range:* \$.50-875  
Medical items for pressure therapy.

support hosiery, shock suits, antishock pants, thigh high garter belts, compression stockings, and post-mastectomy products

25. **Jodee Inc.**

Box 3837  
Hollywood, FL 33083-9978

*Price Range:* \$12-199  
post-mastectomy products: light-weight contemporary bras, comfort support bras, front-ease bras, long line bras, lace and sleep lounge bras, and accessories

26. **J. T. Posey Company**

5635 Peck Road  
Arcadia, CA 91006-0020  
(800) 44-POSEY

*Price Range:* \$1-28  
safety and comfort products

27. **Laurel Designs**

5 Laurel Avenue, #9  
Belvedere, CA 94920  
(415) 435-1891

*Price Range:* \$5-30

Clothing for people in wheelchairs.

28. **Mature Wisdom**

Box 28  
Hanover, PA 17333-0028  
(800) 638-6366

*Price Range:* Clothing: \$29-59, Shoes: \$19-40  
clothing, shoes, and items to ease mind and body

29. **M & M Health Care Apparel**

1541 60th Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11219-9958  
(800) 221-8929

*Price Range:* \$1-73

Apparel in a variety of styles, fabrics, shoes, suspenders, and wheelchair/walker carryall

30. **On the Rise**

2282 Four Oaks Grange Road  
Eugene, OR 97405  
(503) 687-0119

*Price Range:* \$23-64

Custom-made clothing for men, women, and children: dresses, pants, shirts, and robes

31. **PTL Designs, Inc.**

Rt. 3, Box 745  
Perkins, OK 74059  
(918) 372-4322

*Price Range:* \$15-49

Clothing for the elderly and disabled for men, women, and children  
jumpsuits, dresses, tops, pants, skirts, robes, and gowns

32. **Prime Time Fashions**

Box 8850  
Chapel Hill, NC 27515-8850  
(800) 654-7878

*Price Range:* \$26-110

Women's fashions: generous elastic waistbands, easy zippers and buttons in front with Velcro option, nonbending armholes and easy care fabrics



33. **Ramsey**  
150 Eastern Parkway  
Germantown, NY 12526  
(518) 537-5846

*Price Range:* \$10-14  
terrycloth protective covers, collars and Bandannas

34. **Fred Sammons Inc.**  
Box 32  
Brookfield, IL 60513  
(800) 323-5547

*Price Range:* \$2.50-70  
dressing aids, occupational and physical therapy, grooming aids, breast prostheses, hosiery and lingerie

There is an Enrichments catalog that features items to make life more comfortable and lighten the workload.

35. **Sears Home Health Care Specialog**  
(800) 326-1750

*Price Range:* \$12-30  
home health items, men's and women's wear styled for easy dressing

36. **Senior Fashions, Inc.**  
1619 South Peoria  
Tulsa, OK 74120  
(800) 324-5566

*Price Range:* \$5-55  
clothing and accessories figure

37. **Smart Living**  
15724 Western Avenue  
Omaha, NE 68118  
(800) 848-9326

*Price Range:* \$24-50  
clothing with velcro and snap closures only

38. **Sunshine Brothers**  
4552 Warrensville Center Road  
Cleveland, OH 44128  
(800) 428-8000

*Price Range:* Clothing: \$10-25, Shoes: \$16-65  
pants, shirts, sweaters, underwear, socks and accessories, sleepwear and robes, slippers and shoes

39. **Surgical Products Inc.**

99 West Street  
Medfield, MA 02052-0988  
(800) 229-2910

*Price Range:* \$2.50-99

Insulated underwear, ice and snow walkers, shoulder warmer, thermal lap wrap, inflatable neck pillow, fitted briefs, women's midway panties and leg briefs

40. **Techni Flair**

2nd and Dalton Street  
Cotter, AR 72626  
(800) 643-5656

*Price Range:* \$2.50-35

Items designed especially for nursing home residents or any one experiencing physical difficulties. The products are attractive, stylish, and functional.

41. **The P.R.I.D.E. Foundation**

71 Plaza Court  
Groton, CT 06340

Information and publications for promoting real independence for the disabled and elderly.

42. **Vocational Guidance Services**

2239 E 55th Street  
Cleveland, OH 44103

*Price Range:* \$7-30

dresses, slips, robes, and gowns

43. **Wardrobe Wagon**

555 Valley Road  
P.O. Box 714  
Orange, NJ 07051-0714  
(800) WW-CARES

*Price Range:* \$3-75

Clothing for both men and women

women's clothing: casual clothing, sweaters, sleepwear, undergarments, hosiery and footwear  
men's apparel: casual apparel and outerwear, sleepwear, and specialty apparel (incontinent)

44. **Wings Sewn Products**

2239 East 55th Street  
Cleveland, OH 44103  
(800) 227-6625

*Price Range:* \$10-45

clothing for men and women easy to reach back, velcro closures, wide armholes, and machine washability

45. **Wishing Wells Collections Inc.**  
11684 Ventura Boulevard, Suite 965  
Studio City, CA 91604

Wheelchair users, arthritic patients, and for those who are looking for comfortable clothing with independence and updated looks

---

***File NF83 under TEXTILES, CLOTHING AND DESIGN  
A-4, Selection  
Issued June 1993***

---

*Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Elbert C. Dickey, Director of Cooperative Extension, University of Nebraska, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources.*

*University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension educational programs abide with the non-discrimination policies of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the United States Department of Agriculture.*