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Third-generation stylist joins family salon

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The mother-and-son duo of Onie Hughes, left, and Debbie Hughes work together in Just Me Salon in Indian Land, where Onie is accepting new clients.

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Onie Hughes recently joined his mother, Debbie Hughes, at Just Me Salon in Indian Land.

Onie is a third-generation hairstylist at the salon at 8837 Collins Road. Debbie said both Onie's father and grandfather also worked in the hair industry, so it truly is a family business.

Onie said his favorite part of being a hairstylist is seeing what the transformation to a newer look does for his clients. "It's a special industry, where you can put smiles on people's faces," he said. "You can bring joy to their day."

Just Me Salon is on the same property as the Hughes' home, but in a separate building. "When they (clients) drive up, it's like family or a close friend pulling in, and we try and meet everyone at their car and make them feel that way," Debbie said. "We've had a lot of comments about the yard looking like a park and so they get peace when they come in, or when sitting in their cars waiting."

Debbie is no longer taking clients as she is fully booked, but said Onie is ready to book anyone. A stylist with 12 years experience, he is accepting new clients on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, and hopes to expand to Saturdays. “He’s had some great people come in, and they love his work and they love his determination to make them happy,” Debbie said. “He’s really good in color and cuts and that’s where he shines,” she said, adding that Onie’s color foils are “outstanding” and “they’re better than mine, after 47 years.” Onie calls himself a perfectionist, and said he likes to make sure his clients’ hair is perfect before leaving the salon, and make sure they are happy with their look.

Onie graduated from Regency Hair School on South Tryon in 2010, and has worked as a stylist at various salons since. “It’s just a lot of fun to be able to just transform somebody and see their face after they’re transformed and be like, ‘wow, I didn’t know my hair could look like this,’ ” he said.

Prices for women’s haircuts start at \$55 and men’s haircuts at \$35, which includes shampoo and style. One color process and cut start at \$100, and varies with foils and other services. To make an appointment with Onie Hughes, call 803-547-5290.

Haley