

“HOLISTIC CARE, PERSONALIZED SUPPORT”



ACUPUNCTURE
MEDICAL CENTER



A MISSION BORN FROM PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

For the sisters behind Acupuncture Medical Center, caring for people through difficult diagnoses is more than a professional calling—it is deeply personal.

In 2021, the sisters came together around a shared vision: to provide compassionate, whole-person care for people living with chronic or debilitating pain and those navigating life-changing diagnoses. Over time, that mission became even more personal as their own family experienced the realities of breast cancer.

In 2025, one of the sisters and co-founders lost her life to breast cancer.

Having walked alongside one another through diagnosis, treatment, uncertainty, difficult days and the emotional toll cancer can take on an entire family, the sisters understand that the journey extends far beyond a medical diagnosis.

There are appointments, treatment decisions, conversations with family and friends—and then there are the physical and emotional challenges that come with treatment.

“We’ve been through this journey ourselves,” says Berry Franko, L.Ac., one of the co-founders. “We understand how overwhelming a cancer diagnosis can be—not just for the person receiving the diagnosis, but for the entire family. Losing my sister to breast cancer has made this work even more personal for me. We want our patients to know they don’t have to navigate every part of this journey feeling alone.”

Every breast cancer patient has a unique story. Some experience nausea, loss of appetite and fatigue during chemotherapy. Others face pain and discomfort following surgery, or changes in sensory and motor function following radiation treatment. Acupuncture Medical Center works alongside patients’ existing medical care, offering supportive therapies designed to address some of the symptoms and challenges that can make treatment difficult.

“At first, I noticed small changes,” shared Carrie D. of Harrisonburg. “Before I found Acupuncture Medical Center, everything was hard for me. I didn’t just feel like my body had betrayed me, my mind was not my own either. I had what they call ‘brain fog’ from all the chemotherapy. And if I did get a day or two of feeling better—thinking of my family and what they must be going through seeing me like this—it was nearly too much to bear. I was a wreck, inside and out.”

“After a couple of weeks of treatment, I started to feel like myself again. I could walk around the house and tidy up, and I started craving my favorite fruit salad, before my acupuncture, even the thought of it had been turning my stomach.”

For the team at Acupuncture Medical Center, those small moments of returning to everyday life are meaningful.

“Life always has its challenges. Helping our patients get back to doing the things they love—that’s what truly motivates us,”

The dedicated team sees themselves as partners in each patient’s journey, listening carefully and adjusting their approach as needs change. For someone going through cancer treatment, support with symptoms such as fatigue, nausea, poor appetite, discomfort or stress can make the day-to-day experience feel more manageable.

“We can’t take away every difficult part of the journey,” Franko says. “But we can be there. We can listen, support the body and help patients feel a little more like themselves.”

For the sisters, helping others through this journey has become part of their legacy—a way to transform an experience marked by profound loss into a commitment to compassionate care for others.

Because sometimes healing isn’t about making the journey disappear. It’s about making sure no one has to walk it alone.



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