



2020 Annual Report

Our Vision

A world where all at life's thresholds may be honored with compassion shared through song.

Our Mission

Singing for those at the thresholds of life.

Our Voices

"While we (my 5 year old daughter and I) were in the hospital I drew upon TC repertoire and while I held her I sang "You Are Not Alone", "I Am Home", and then I drew a complete blank so I went to the TC website and did a search for "safety." I scanned through the results and found "Starlight Lullaby", which sounded perfect. I am so grateful and proud that I had the ability to sight read it and sing it for her, and she finally- *finally*- rested while we waited for the ortho to arrive.

I also noticed that one of the nurses cracked the door to our room, and the entire pediatric ER quieted down while I sang, for about a half an hour (or so?) as I did several calming repeats of each song.

It was about more than comforting my terrified, hurting child, though. Singing also helped bring *me* out of my own terror, pain, and grief with the breath allowing my parasympathetic nervous system to regain balance, and the familiar music (that is intrinsically linked by and with love) and repetitions helping ground and center and align me.

I hope everyone here has at least an inkling of how powerful and special the gift of music, and especially the gift of *shared* music is. I know I wasn't singing alone that night, I had the voices of the dead and the living breathing life into my offering."

Hana Halverson, Tucson Threshold Choir, Tucson AZ

"Each week we rotate through our repertoire of songs to keep them fresh, and we're learning more than a dozen new ones, too. We sing with the tracks on the TC web site, and with the two TC albums, as well as with albums made by TC chapters and songwriters. We also make single- and multi-track practice recordings on GarageBand as needed.

Two sub-groups journeyed together on Zoom through the new TC curriculum (including both new and longtime members) and the vocal series with Lauren Lane Powell. Both were very valuable. We'll offer both again in the new year.

Just seeing each other's faces regularly is SUCH a balm! Regular singing is good for our mental health and good practice for when we can resume service, and sharing our joys and struggles during this stressful time has been bedrock for many of us."

Cynthia Dyer, Long Bay Threshold Singers, Myrtle Beach, SC

"The amount of work you have to put into maintaining TCI is not lost on me every time I sign onto an event. You continue to amaze me working so comprehensively with such limited resources."

Edith Lewis, Oaxaca Canta, Mexico, and Threshold Singers Ann Arbor, MI

"It is an honor to be able to give funds to support the work that you all do for all of us at the chapter level. I cannot tell you how impressed I have been by the efforts you have made to serve us in this incredibly difficult time."

Leslie Kostrich, Administrative Director, Threshold Singers of Washington DC

A Message from the Board Chair

The year 2020 was unlike any other in recent memory. As the Covid-19 pandemic's reach spread into our chapters' communities, Threshold Choir singers found themselves no longer able to attend the bedsides of those who were dying. They took their singer's stools and songbooks home to keep their clients and themselves safe.

Once aware of the pandemic's scope and potential duration, choir leadership focused on how we might maintain a resilient organization. Central to this was supporting our members. Like so many around the world, we turned to Zoom based programming. We offered a variety of opportunities for singers to connect, sing, learn from guest teachers, and deepen the knowledge and wisdom needed for bedside work. Many members learned to collaborate through technology to serve local clients, creating virtual choirs and recordings to share as well as offering soothing song virtually to recipients.

This year brought forward another type of suffering on a global level as current events highlighted the longstanding systemic racism and injustice prevalent worldwide. In response, the conversation for our leadership was to look for ways Threshold Choir might increase awareness and take action toward greater diversity, equity and inclusion. To that end, a Threshold Diversity Task Force developed a new curriculum for chapters to use as a learning resource to explore several aspects of diversity, including race and ethnicity, gender and gender expression, physical ability/disability, and economic status. A newly forming Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee will invite and support chapters' use of the curriculum and will engage in outreach to expand our connections and collaborations with culturally diverse groups.

Lastly, we want to acknowledge our members. These wonderful singers, passionate for the work we do, continued to attend the virtual programs and shared their insights, voices and open hearts. Their participation and increased giving has been the propelling force through such difficult times. If ever there were a silver lining of 2020, it was working and growing along with our beautiful members.

Lana Noel

Nearly 10,000 Sings

In 2020, we reported 6749 bedside sings and 3008 COVID sings (sings for patients via Zoom, telephone, or other methods).

Metrics

As of December 2019

Total Choir Members - 2859

Total Chapters - 200

As of December 2020

Total Choir Members - 2334

Total Chapters - 192

As of January 2021

Total Choir Members - 2279

Total Chapters - 193

Australia - 5

Canada - 14

UK - 5

Mexico/ Guatemala - 2

Netherlands - 2

New Zealand - 2

US - 163



“From the mud of adversity
grows the lotus of joy.”
– Carolyn Marsden

2020 - A Year of Opportunities

Heidi Dressler - Executive Director

What an incredible opportunity 2020 turned out to be. While there was so much to be sad about with COVID-19 and the inability to go to the bedside, we shifted our focus to supporting each other and learning new things about ourselves and our craft.

Few of our members knew about Zoom in March of 2020. We offered classes on how to use it and launched a tremendous array of learning opportunities. Rehearsing via Zoom to singing with Melanie DeMore, Elisa Keeler and some of our favorite songwriters. From “The Five Gates of Grief” series to how to record and share your chapter voices. We provided our CDs to hospices and caregivers to use in-house in our absence. We posted recordings to share on our website. We did everything we could to keep our mission going when we couldn’t really go anywhere.

We continue to support over 2000 members around the world. As of the end of 2020, we had 2334 members, 192 chapters. At the beginning of 2020, we had 2859 members and 200 chapters.

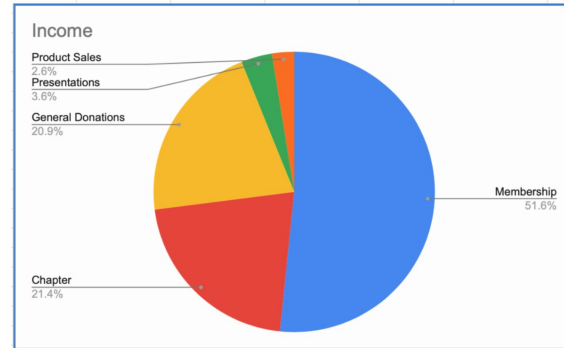
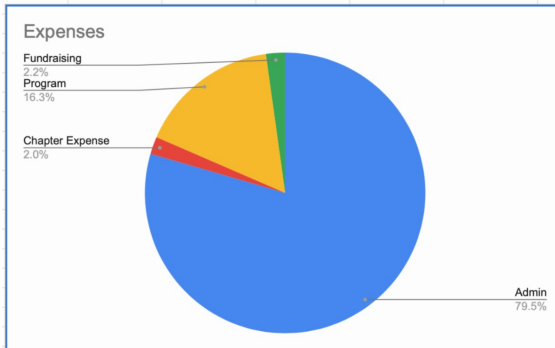
We are grateful to them for their financial support and enthusiasm in a very difficult time. As we start to see the light at the end of the COVID tunnel, the Board and I continue to focus on the sustainability of the Threshold Choir mission: Singing for those at the

thresholds of life. The way we did that in 2020 was unlike any other year. We learned a lot along the way and I continue to be grateful for the opportunity.

Thank you for your continued support. Threshold Choir is worth protecting.

Be well,
Heidi Dressler

The Financial Picture



Balance Sheet

Profit and Loss

Board of Directors and Staff

Board of Directors (Board@thresholdchoir.org)

Chair, Lana Noel
Secretary, Nancy Roberts-Brown
Treasurer, Jan Booth
Member, Donna Inglis
Member, David Grube, MD

Cherry Tinker (retired February 2021, former Secretary)

Staff

Heidi Dressler, Executive Director (Heidi@thresholdchoir.org)
Jill Schnipke, Member Services Manager (memberserve@thresholdchoir.org)

Founder - Kate Munger (kateamunger@gmail.com)

Important Links

Website: thresholdchoir.org

Click [here](#) for member login. Follow directions on the web page if you've forgotten your password.

You must be logged in for the following:

[Member homepage](#)

DONATE

[Official Threshold Choir Repertoire](#)

[Newsletter archive](#)

[Members Songbook](#)

Got Questions? Need help?

VoiceMail: 707.596.8531

Email: help@thresholdchoir.org

Website [contact page](#)



We're on [Facebook!](#)

