

Chapter History of Bedside Voices of the Valley  
Glenwood Springs, CO  
Lesa Russo, Bedside Voices of the Valley Leader

Lesa Russo, the chapter leader, started the current Threshold chapter after a 6-year hiatus. This new chapter was established in August 2023 after COVID. Lesa previously led a chapter through the local hospital for 12 years prior to that. She initially learned of Threshold Choir after reading a magazine article years ago featuring Kate. She contacted Kate and went to a retreat in California where she shared her music. This was prior to the Threshold Choir becoming a 501(c)(3) organization.

Bedside Voices of the Valley currently has 12 members. The chapter came together from the original group years ago and new members joined after witnessing the group singing in the community. All members are active at bedside. We have 9 original members, which includes two sets of mother/daughters.

Our chapter has an average of 2-4 sings a month. Also, we do community sings/singing meditations on a quarterly basis. We practice every Tuesday evening in the hospital chapel. We are affiliated with the local hospice organization and all Threshold Choir members are hospice volunteers. The hospice volunteer coordinator contacts the leader for bedside visits.

Bedside Voices of the Valley is currently not looking for or taking new members. It is a delicate balance keeping the cohesiveness of the current group. We have no specific leadership model.

## **Introduction**

Bedside Voices of the Valley is a Threshold Choir chapter led by Lesa Russo that reformed after a six-year hiatus and was officially reestablished in August 2023 following the disruptions of COVID. The chapter continues the local tradition of bedside singing and community presence that preceded its pause. Its work focuses on bringing simple, gentle a cappella song to people at bedside and in communal settings.

## **Founding and Lesa Russo's Path**

Lesla Russo initiated the current chapter after previously leading a Threshold-style group through the local hospital for twelve years. Her introduction to the Threshold community began years earlier when she read a magazine article about Kate and reached out, eventually attending a retreat in California where she shared her music before Threshold Choir existed as a formal organization. That early connection and retreat experience shaped Lesa's approach to leading and sustaining the chapter.

## **Membership and Composition**

Bedside Voices of the Valley currently counts twelve active members. Nine of those members are original participants from the earlier group, and the chapter includes two mother/daughter pairs. All members remain actively engaged in bedside singing, maintaining deep familiarity and cohesion within the ensemble.

## **Practices and Bedside Singing**

Regular practice takes place every Tuesday evening in the hospital chapel, creating a steady rehearsal rhythm that supports readiness for bedside visits. The chapter averages two to four bedside sings per month and holds quarterly community sings and singing meditations. Every member participates in bedside work, reinforcing the chapter's mission through consistent presence.

## **Community Relationships and Coordination**

Bedside Voices of the Valley is affiliated with the local hospice organization and functions as a team of hospice volunteers. The hospice volunteer coordinator communicates directly with Lesa Russo to schedule bedside visits, integrating the chapter into local care networks. The chapter's public performances and visible presence in the community have attracted new members in the past, though recruitment is currently restrained.

## **Leadership, Cohesion, and Current Status**

The chapter operates without a formal leadership model beyond Lesa Russo's role as chapter leader. Currently, Bedside Voices of the Valley is not seeking new members to preserve the delicate balance and cohesiveness of the existing group. The chapter remains committed to its bedside ministry, steady practice schedule, and respectful partnership with local hospice services.