

Chapter History of Grand Rapids Threshold Choir

2025

The Grand Rapids Threshold Choir chapter was founded in 2014 and has since grown into a vibrant and compassionate community of singers dedicated to bringing comfort through song.

Membership and Participation

As of now, the chapter includes 24 active singers, with 15 members regularly participating in bedside sings and song baths. While only one original member remains active, the spirit of the founding group continues to thrive. Interestingly, none of the current members are related, but the group shares a deep familial bond through their shared mission. Three members have contributed original songs that are now part of the chapter's active repertoire. One member joined after moving from another Threshold chapter, and none currently sing in more than one chapter.

Singing Practice and Outreach

The Grand Rapids chapter averages three bedside sings per month but does not currently host song baths. The choir practices weekly, maintaining a strong sense of connection and musical cohesion. Their clients primarily come from Corewell Hospice and through private invitations, reflecting the chapter's trusted presence in the community.

Chapter Origins

The chapter was founded by Linda Jones, who remains an active and inspiring leader. Linda's journey with Threshold Choir began with the Ann Arbor chapter. When she relocated to Grand Rapids, she brought her passion and experience with her, planting the seeds for a new chapter. Although Kate Munger did not play a direct role in the founding of the Grand Rapids chapter, her influence was significant. Linda attended several weekend gatherings with Kate in Toledo, Yellow Springs, and at All Choir Gatherings, which deeply shaped the chapter's development.

Membership initially grew through word of mouth and a feature on a local TV news program. The chapter continues to welcome new members on a rolling basis, embracing the philosophy of "striking while the iron is hot" whenever someone expresses interest.

Structure and Resilience

The chapter operates with a collaborative leadership model, featuring two co-leaders and a librarian. Bedside leaders take the initiative to organize sings they are leading, ensuring a smooth and responsive structure.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the chapter adapted by meeting online. This unexpected shift allowed members to deepen their connections and emerge from the experience with their community intact and even more resilient.



Early Picture. Front row: Laura Ferner, Jamie Zimmerman, Cindy Rockwood, Kim Shea
Back Row: Meredith Bradley, Betty Kronemeyer, Linda Jones, Carol Sharan, Ginny Kelling

Recent Picture. Yvonne DeVries, Mary Mead, Molly Kehoe, Ben Scott-Brandt, Amy Abramjtyts, Linda Jones, Penelope Salinger (visitor), Stephanie Gingrich, Rebecca Kirk, Cindy Rockwood, Deborah Eid, Sarah Vanderson, Debra Rinck. Members not pictured: Shannan Denison, Rebecca Mullins, Meredith Bradley, Jane Sky, Liz Tompkins, Jen Walsh.

