

## **The Threshold Singers of Indianapolis History: 2011-2025**

In 2011, two women independently decided to form a new Threshold Choir chapter in Indianapolis, the first chapter in the state. Deborah Carrithers and Donna Pittman eventually got together and invited friends and colleagues to work toward launching this chapter. Donna left after a year, and others found that they did not have adequate time to devote to this effort, but our core group grew. Several singers visited our chapter and then formed their own chapters elsewhere in Indiana.

Our chapter membership has varied from around six to fourteen members. We have welcomed 45 women to sing with us over the years. We currently have eight steadfast members, including six who sing at bedside, and we regularly visit seven facilities throughout Indianapolis. We have sung at hospitals, continuing care communities, hospices and homes. Twice we participated in an annual local program called Spirit & Place, where a theme is explored in events throughout the city through music, arts, humanities and religion. We sang about “home” and “gratitude” and spoke about the profound personal meaning of our work.

During the pandemic, we closed rehearsals for two months and then went on zoom for a year. We sent Threshold CD's to our facilities and some A Cappella app videos of our songs to friends and family in need of comfort. In 2021, we resumed in-person, outdoor rehearsals, and we were thrilled to return to sing for patients in the spring of 2022, although masked and following precautions.

We have an informal approach to welcoming singers and learning our wonderful Threshold songs, working to refine our singing for the sweetest lullaby sound. We also enjoy one another's company at our annual Sing-and-Swim and Cookie Exchange. Threshold Choir has provided us the opportunity to develop deep friendships as we share the gift of our harmonies.

