

Chapter History of Albuquerque Threshold Choir

2026

Chapter Beginnings

The Albuquerque Threshold Choir chapter began in 2008 when Lissa Callirhoe, inspired by classes and choir practices she attended in California, returned to Albuquerque to start a circle of interested singers.

A formative moment came when three members attended a gathering in Santa Fe, met Kate Munger, and felt the mission resonate so clearly that they committed to starting the choir in Albuquerque. After a write-up in the Albuquerque Journal, about 22 women responded, eager to learn more about the Threshold Choir's mission.

Membership

There is one original member (Rose Ann James) who is still active in the chapter. There are 15 current members, with 12 of them active. This includes eight members who have graduated to bedside singing. Our chapter has two members who have moved to Albuquerque from another chapter.

Prospective new members are welcomed twice a year, in January and July.

Practices

The Albuquerque Threshold Choir has two regular practices monthly, plus two harmony studies (practicing in more detail on musical elements such as harmony parts and rhythm) each month.

Clients and Community Partners

The Albuquerque chapter provides bedside and song bath services to Presbyterian Hospice House, the Veteran's Administration's Hospice, Inhora Hospice for the Homeless, and three Beehive Homes (Assisted Living) in the area.

The chapter has an average of 10 monthly bedside sings. In addition, the chapter has an average of five song baths per month in which five-eight members join in.

Leadership Model

The chapter has a shared leadership model with four leaders who share all tasks.

Impact of COVID-19

The pandemic reshaped the chapter's direction. Members met on Zoom, then outdoors when gathering became safer. The losses to the chapter were significant - all but five members stepped back due to moves, life changes, and the inability to sing at bedsides. The choir's recovery has been steady and intentional—rebuilding capacity, training bedside singers, and reweaving connection through practice and presence.

Regional Gatherings

The Albuquerque Threshold chapter hosted two Regional Gatherings in 2010 and 2012 at the Madonna Center in Albuquerque. At both gatherings there were around 50 singers, with Kate Munger leading both gatherings.

Members of the chapter have participated in additional Regional Gatherings in Silver City, Taos, Flagstaff, Phoenix, and Santa Fe (Albuquerque chapter co-led this gathering in 2025).

These gatherings anchor Albuquerque within the wider Threshold community, sharing songs, practices, and the quiet wisdom that flows among singers from various Threshold choirs.

Continuing Legacy

From its beginnings in 2008 to its present-day circle of 15 singers, the Albuquerque Threshold Choir has grown into a steady, compassionate presence in the community. Its history is one of vision, shared leadership, resilience, and the quiet power of voices offered in service.

Veteran's Administration Memorial 2024. Tara Brinduse, Teri Ruch, Chris Snyder, Rose Ann James, Linda Wilson, Leah Kier, Susan Erickson



New Mexico Gathering, September 2025. Mary Neisius, Karuna Fluhart-Negrete, Teri Ruch, Margaret Connealy, Susan Erickson, Leah Kier, Roseann James, Linda Wilson, Qris Claassen



February 3, 2026