

HEART OF OREGON THRESHOLD SINGERS

Bend, Oregon

2026

Our chapter was formed in 2020. Currently we have 15 members who all sing regularly at bedsides in our area. Six of our eight original members are still active. None of our chapter members are related. None of our members have written songs, though two of our members have collaborated to make original arrangements of three (non-Threshold) songs that we actively sing. All of our members sing for our chapter exclusively. Only our founding member, Yolanda Sanchez-Peterson, had previously sung with Threshold before moving to Bend, OR. We've made no recordings so far.... but hope to!

Our average monthly sings range between 30 and 40 bedsides per month. We do not offer "Song Baths" at this point. We practice twice monthly. The majority of our clients are inpatients at our beautiful local Hospice House that is run by Partners In Care Hospice where we sing two afternoons a week on a regular basis. We also receive requests to sing at private bedsides throughout the Central Oregon area on an average of 2-3 bedsides per month. Some of these private requests are through various local Hospice organizations, and some come to us simply through word of mouth recommendations or the TCI website.

Our chapter was started by Yolanda Sanchez-Peterson, our current Director, who was an early member of one of the early S.F. Bay area Threshold choirs. After moving here, Yolanda sang alone for awhile, and then recruited 2 members within the first year or two who still sing with the choir. We then began holding an occasional "Information Night" for interested prospects who had heard about Threshold through friends / acquaintances. We now have enough enquiries from the TCI website and from the many hospice and community connections we have formed in the area, that we hold auditions on an annual basis and have a waiting list for those auditions.

Our leadership model includes a Director (Yolanda Sanchez-Peterson), Administrator (Susan Boucher), Treasurer (Bette Butler), and Music Archivist (Amy Knapp). We have three Anchor/ Bedside Leaders at present, and we are working toward developing a small team of singers who could share the role of Rehearsal Leaders on a rotation basis.

We had just become officially associated with TCI when COVID hit. We stayed alive by holding rehearsals on ZOOM twice a month as usual, and singing for an occasional bedside request outside of windows wearing masks. Eventually we began rehearsing in-person outdoors, and then indoors with masks. At that point we were invited to sing regularly outside of windows at the local Hospice House. This progressed, after everyone getting the required vaccinations, to singing in the hallways of Hospice House wearing masks, eventually singing masked in patient rooms, and finally being OK'd to sing unmasked at bedsides in mid 2022 unless another outbreak was occurring. Long haul, but we managed to train and add 4 new singers during those years.