



## 2021 Annual Report

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### Our Vision

A world where all at life's thresholds may be honored with compassion shared through song.

### Our Mission

Singing for those at the thresholds of life.

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## At the Threshold

Priscilla's mother passed recently and Threshold Choir singers were a special part of the process. The Evergreen Threshold Singers in Washington State provided presence, comfort and song for the family.

[Listen to Message](#)

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## Farewell From the Board Chair

A bittersweet moment has come for me as I rolled off the board at the end of 2021. I've had the privilege of serving for five years, the last three as Chair. Interestingly, my time as Chair began with implementing Chapter Agreements and ended with nearly two years of a pandemic that forced our singers out of service. Yet Threshold Choir is a life-affirming place to serve, whether singing at bedside or contributing in other capacities, so I am robustly thankful to have been meeting challenges alongside other 'Thresholders.'

The Chapter Agreements were an important organizational milestone, which created the structural support necessary for potential growth. During the pandemic, other key elements have been put in place:

- Regional Sounding Board
- Repertoire Committee
- Diversity and Outreach Committees
- Diversity Curriculum and Training
- Zoom Programming/Classes

These essential elements, along with the already existing Chapter Coaching Team and Bedside Singer Training, reflect the work of the hands, hearts and minds of your fellow choir members.

I am confident that with this structural network in place, along with the help of a dedicated Executive Director and excellent Board team, Threshold Choir will continue to offer its unique gifts of loving presence and song in the years to come.

If there is anything I have learned from the seat I've had - it's that we are all One Choir, Many Voices. It requires us to recognize this and when possible, get involved beyond our chapter circle. If you have the time and energy, please consider ways you might contribute to the organization's well-being. You will be rewarded with many new friends and the sense that you helped sustain and grow this special place - Threshold Choir.

Lana Noel  
Board Chair 2019-2021

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## Finding New Ways



Like everyone in the world, Threshold Choir was acutely impacted by the COVID 19 pandemic. Precluded from singing at the bedside, but still deeply committed to our mission, Threshold Choir members found countless new ways to sing and serve. Judy Davis, Musical Director of the Montgomery Hospice Threshold Choir in Rockville, Maryland, shares what these unique times meant to her choir and to the residents and families served by the Montgomery Hospice.

[View Message](#)

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## 2021-22 – A Time of Transition

Entering Year 3 of the pandemic, even as we are all too ready for it to be over, we realize that COVID brought unexpected gifts to the Threshold Choir. Through the ubiquitous power of Zoom, we have been able to meet and sing with Threshold members across the globe. The Zoom programming that Heidi and others have produced deepened our awareness of issues related to end-of-life and diversity, increased our musical skills, and encouraged us to use technology in new ways.

You have demonstrated your appreciation of these efforts through your participation in Zoom events, your sustained membership, and your substantial contributions to our annual campaign. During 2021, we received 19 gifts of \$1,000 or more, additional 17 gifts of \$500 to \$1000, and 153 gifts of between \$50 and \$499. This significant and unprecedented level of giving lets us know just how much you value the Threshold Choir. We are deeply grateful to you for your generous support through these challenging times.

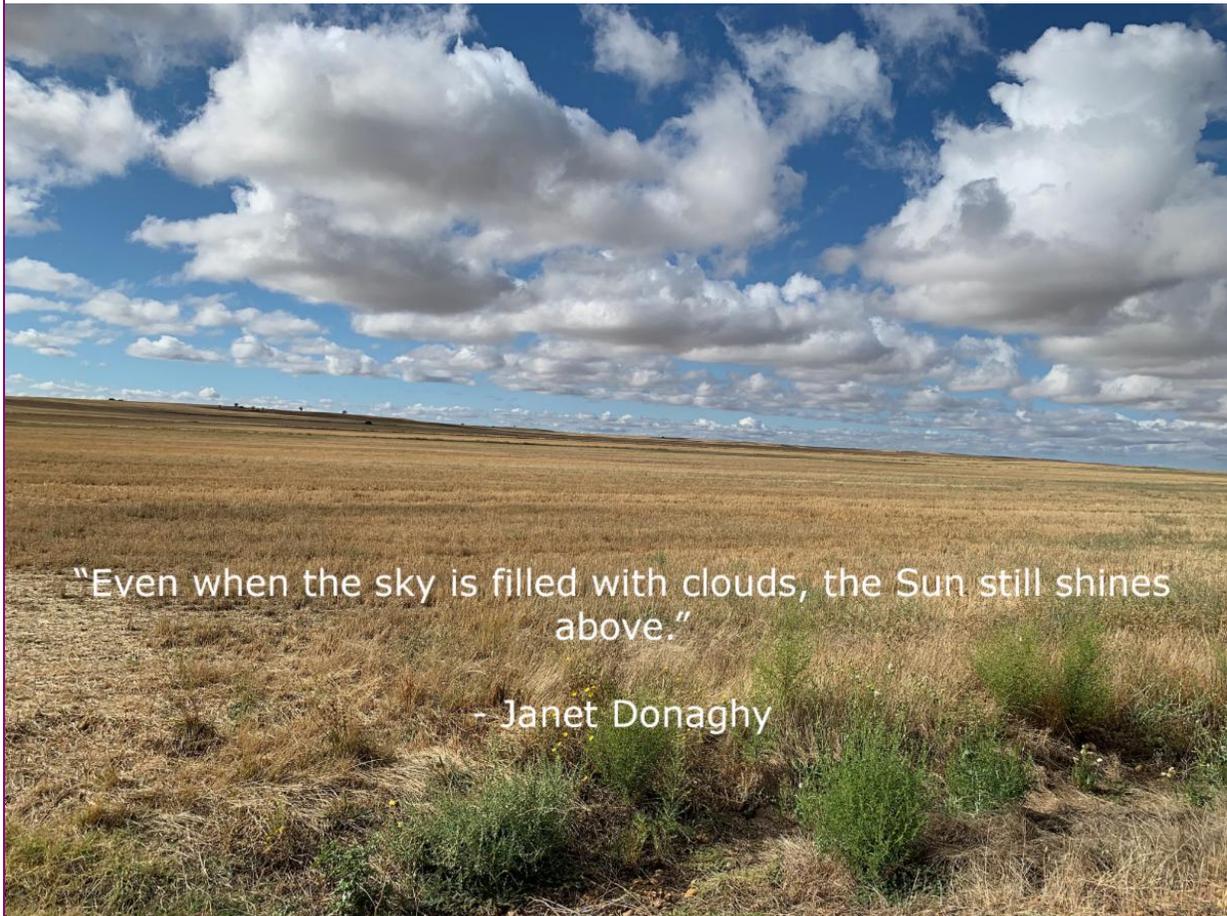
The transitions necessitated by COVID have, indeed, strengthened Threshold in many ways. Behind the scenes, we are instituting additional changes designed to strengthen our work. We are moving into new forms of leadership so that more Threshold members can participate in shaping our future. We created the Sounding Board through which regional representatives bring members' ideas and input into programs and policies we are considering. New committees are engaging members in leadership related to our repertoire and our diversity focus, and we are working with long-time leaders to plan for the succession of their work at the time they choose to step down.

We are experimenting with shared leadership, with the two of us serving as Board co-chairs, and for the first time in our history, we have invited to the Board of Directors individuals who are not Threshold singers. Each of our three “non-singing” members – Aly Lynch, Karen Hendrickson and Betty Szatkowski – brings much needed expertise to the board and offers an “outside” perspective that enhances our reflections on key issues. We are most thankful for all of our long-time and emerging Threshold leaders.

Even as our plates for 2022 are full and overflowing, we know Threshold Choir will continue to grow and thrive. Our mission is unique and essential. Our repertoire is beyond comparison. Our leaders are hard-working, committed and wise, and our members are generous and kind. As a group, we seek to be fully present to ourselves, to one another, and to the recipients of our songs, continually working to be, as one of our members coined, “troubadours of presence.” With all of us working together, our beloved choir is in good hands.

Nancy Roberts-Brown  
Jan Booth  
Co-Chairs, Board of Directors

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“Even when the sky is filled with clouds, the Sun still shines above.”

– Janet Donaghy

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What a Year!

Dear Friends of the Threshold Choir,

*"If a choir is only about singing and performing, there will be no choir for a while. If choir is about teaching and learning, growing, connecting, community, cultural exploration and transmission, and innovating - we will find a way to have choir."*

~ Kellie Walsh, President of Choral Canada

What a year it has been! We all started the year convinced we would be back at the bedside in the Spring, then it was postponed to Summer and here we are in the Winter of 2022 barely at the bedside and only in some locations. We still managed to sing for those at life's thresholds 6390 times in 2021. We continued in new ways to strengthen our commitment to each other as part of our one choir, many voices. Those voices sing a bit differently on Zoom, but at least we can see each other and be together!

As we slowly move to a return to the bedside, we are so grateful for the support we received in our year-end campaign. It will allow us to build a new website which is long overdue. We are also grateful to all of our members who have answered the call for committee service. Our Waking Up to Diversity group, Repertoire Team, Sounding Board members, Coaching Team, and all of those who give so generously of their time have been key contributors to the tapestry of our mission. We are stronger as individuals and our mission is more sustainable as a result of such a giving community.

We lost nearly 1300 members since March 2020, but we gained a few new singers and several new chapters. We currently have nearly 2100 members and more than 200 chapters, with just over 30 chapters in various stages of forming.

I am honored to be a part of this organization and do what I can to support the Threshold Choir mission. Thank you for all you give and know that the Board and I see you, hear you and support each and every one of you as we move forward towards creating our new normal. We will travel together and all is well!

In gratitude for your continued support,

Heidi Dressler - Executive Director TC

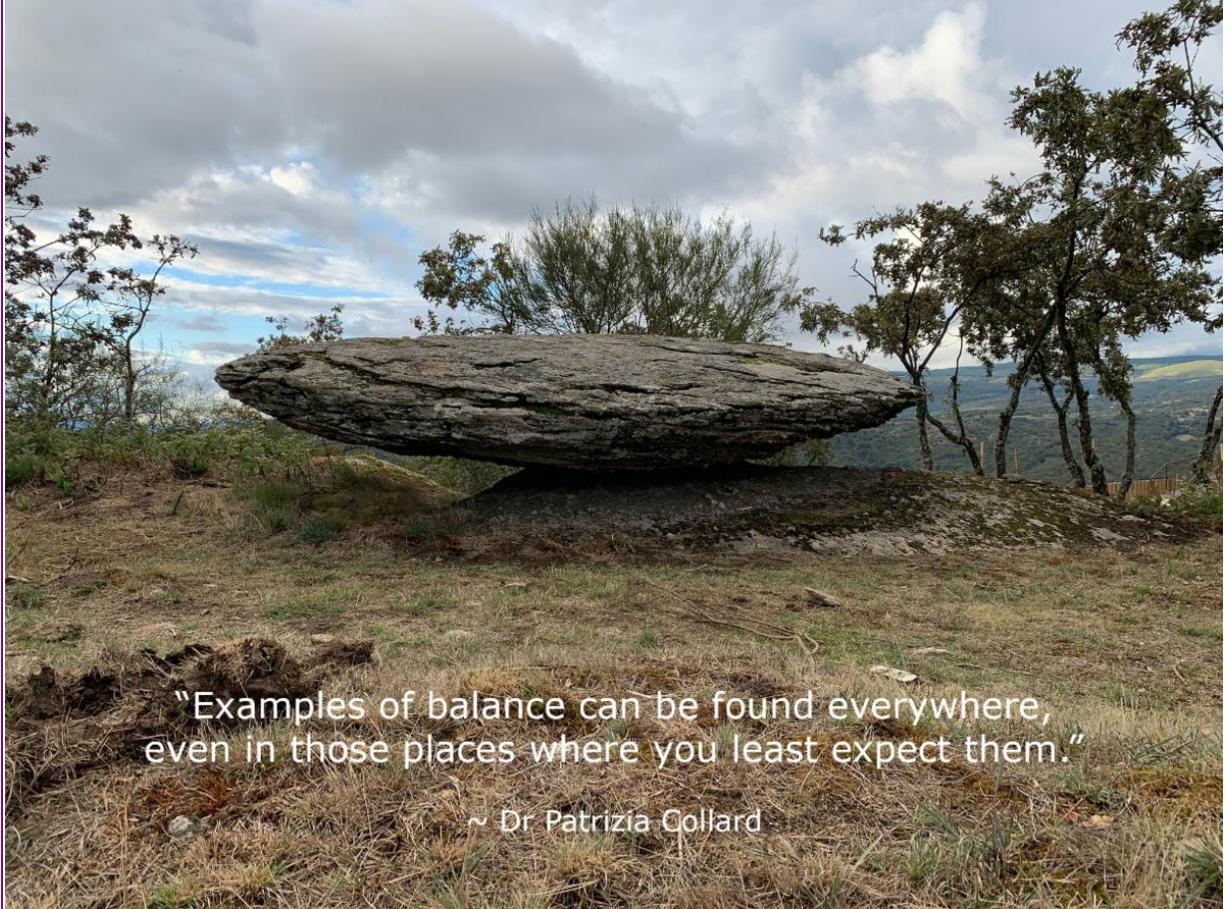
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## We Keep Singing

Listen to Judy Hahn from Garden State TC, NJ share what this has been like for her chapter. Our 200 plus chapters around the world continue to meet the challenges created by the pandemic.

[View Message](#)

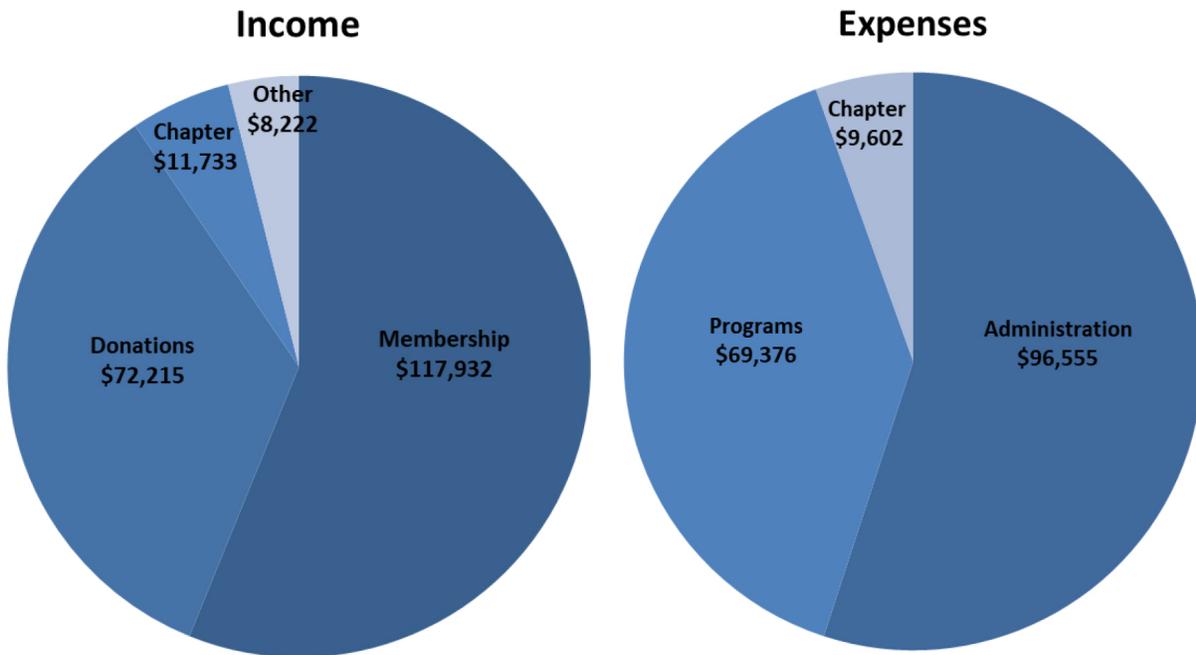
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“Examples of balance can be found everywhere,  
even in those places where you least expect them.”

~ Dr Patrizia Collard

## The Financial Picture



## TC 2021 Financial Reports

**Board of Directors** ([Board@thresholdchoir.org](mailto:Board@thresholdchoir.org))

Co-Chairs, Jan Booth & Nancy Roberts-Brown  
Secretary, Aly Lynch  
Treasurer, Betty Szatkowski  
Member, Karen Hendrickson  
Member, David Grube MD

Cherry Tinker (retired February 2021, former Secretary)  
Donna Inglis (retired October 2021)  
Lana Noel (retired December 2021, former Board Chair)

**Staff**

Heidi Dressler, Executive Director ([Heidi@thresholdchoir.org](mailto:Heidi@thresholdchoir.org))  
Priscilla Green, Administrative Assistant ([Priscilla@thresholdchoir.org](mailto:Priscilla@thresholdchoir.org))

**Founder** - Kate Munger ([kateamunger@gmail.com](mailto:kateamunger@gmail.com))

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**Threshold Choir**

(A 501c3 Tax Exempt Organization)

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[thresholdchoir.org](http://thresholdchoir.org)

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