

Angélica was born to migrant farm workers who eventually settled in NC. From a young age, she witnessed injustices in the farm worker community that instilled in her a high sense of commitment to the struggle for social justice. She has been involved in several social justice movements that include immigrant rights, women's reproductive rights, and gender equality.

She is the Executive Director of Our VOICE, Inc., Buncombe County's rape crisis center, which serves survivors of sexual violence and human trafficking. Under her leadership, in 2016 Our VOICE created Project WEST-NC an anti-human trafficking project covering 6 Western NC counties and was selected as one of the Project NO REST pilot sites. Understanding the complexities of providing empowering survivor-centered services, Our VOICE's has steadily developed a reputation of being at the forefront in serving human trafficking survivors.

Professionally, she has over 10 years of working with survivors impacted by violence. Prior to joining Our VOICE in 2012, Angélica worked at the NCCADV as their Immigrant Outreach Specialist and Pisgah Legal Services as their Bilingual Court Advocate where she helped immigrant victims obtain immigration remedies. She was the recipient of the National Sexual Violence Resource Center's Visionary Voice Award for North Carolina. Angélica was awarded the WNC Crime Victims' Coalition Award for Victim Advocacy Professional in 2016 and 2011. Angélica has a bachelor's degree in Applied Social Science from St. Andrews Presbyterian College in Laurinburg, North Carolina and a Juris Doctorate from North Carolina Central University in Durham, North Carolina.