



Iglesia del Dios Vivo, Columna y Apoyo de la Verdad, La Luz del Mundo was originally the First Presbyterian Church, which was built in 1856 by Reverend Samuel Pond. It was rebuilt in 1900, and was used until 1967. Then it became a bus terminal and office building, until 1997 when it became the church on 502 First Avenue East in Shakopee where Angelica Arevalo-Contreras became a liaison between the church and city.

Finally, Angelica decided to run for city council in Shakopee. She wanted to continue supporting diverse housing, since Shakopee was so diverse and rich in cultures, family comes in many sizes. Having multi-living options and housing for all was a need.

Secondly Angelica knew representation was still a lacking factor. She had been there for the Latino community and provided many services for so long she knew someone needed to be their voice. She wanted to become the first Mexican-American female to sit on council.

And Angelica wanted to support local business to keep the community and your downtown thriving.



And starting on January 1, 2019, Angelica Maria Arevalo-Contreras became the first person of color and the first Mexican-American city council member. She continues to advocate and represent all the people of Shakopee.



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SHAKOPEE HERITAGE SOCIETY



**Angelica Maria
Arevalo-
Contreras**

**Immigrated in 1979
In Shakopee since 1999**

Compiled and written by David R. Schleper, Shakopee Heritage Society © 2021

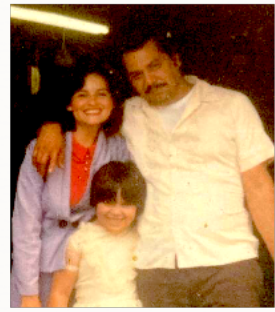


Angelica Maria Arevalo-Contreras was born on December 1, 1978 in Reynosa Tamaulipas, a small town on the border of the United States and Mexico. Her parents are Hortencia Rodriguez and Gilberto Arevalo. Angelica is the oldest of eight siblings.

Her parents and Angelica immigrated to the city of Houston, Texas when she was 6 months old.

Angelica attended Houston public schools, and excelled in middle school and was accepted to the High School for Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice, a magnet school.

At the age of 16, Angelica started dating Eduardo Contreras. They met in church. On March 18, 1996 they were married. She continued her education and graduated, and, in 1998, Angelica became a citizen of the United States.



Gilberto and Hortencia Rodriguez Arevalo with their child, Angelica.



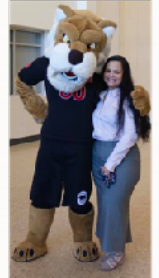
Angelica Arevalo-Contreras became the first Mexican-American on the Shakopee City Council when she was elected in 2018.

On right is Angelica and Eduardo and their four children: Jezreel, Jordan, Jaydon and Chloe, which have attended Shakopee Public Schools and participate in local sport activities.



Eduardo had a good job opportunity in Minnesota because he was good with roofing and siding. In March 1999, Angelica and Eduardo moved to Shakopee, Minnesota. This is where Angelica saw the opportunity to begin advocating and representing the Latino community. With the support of the deacon at the church she attended, the *Iglesia del Dios Vivo, Columna y Apoyo de la Verdad, La Luz del Mundo*, Angelica became a liaison between the church and city.

She helped in many projects from acquiring permits from the city to advocating for the brethren of the church. In her spare time, Angelica helped translation of documents, interpreting at courts, local schools and even hospitals. There was always someone that would come and ask for advice, resources and information, since she was fluent in the English language and knowledgeable of the resources and programs available in Shakopee.



Angelica continued to work for the community, including the CAP Agency in 2011, where she started as a Spanish speaking customer service representative and later as a Certified Lactation Counselor for Scott, Carver & Dakota County's WIC Program; a member of the Parent Advisory Committee at Central Family School, where she worked on starting programs in other languages; the vice-president of the Shakopee Diversity Alliance (SDA) from 2018-2019; and a volunteer coordinator for Mary Hernandez campaign.

And after all of this, Angelica was asked again and again to not just support candidates, but actually join boards and political positions. To make a difference, Angelica joined the Shakopee Soccer Association where she promotes the association by recruiting players in diverse cultures and communities. She also helps assist with financial assistance to the players in financial difficulties.

