

# Angela Martinez-Deleon

## Coming Home Through Amicus Radius

Amicus Radius Counselor Angela Martinez Deleon grew up in North Minneapolis and graduated from North High School in 1991. There was a great deal of violence around the high school at the time; Angela recalled a classmate being beaten to death in North High's hallways after school. While violence was a part of her world and all students were impacted by it to some extent, Angela said that she wasn't closely connected to the people getting involved in the worst of it. She's glad for that, but Angela and teens like her were impacted in a more quiet way. As neighborhood leaders and school administrators were responding to the violence, the kids who were just getting on with their lives faded into the background.

"I didn't get into trouble, so I was sometimes overlooked," Angela remembered. "I was very shy, not really connected to my community, just kind of lost."

For her, that lack of connectedness translated into cutting classes and falling behind in school.

"Once I figured out where I was, that I was not going to graduate on time if I didn't concentrate, I knew I had to create the expectation of succeeding in school for myself."

Angela left North High and attended an alternative high school where she could catch up. Her motivation was to wear the cap and gown – to be with her peers when it was time to go through commencement.

Things got better for her at the school. She connected with adults who could help her. She remembers that the alternative high school frequently worked with Circles, a method for bringing people together and allowing them to share their thoughts which is an important tool used at Amicus as well.

After graduating, Angela went on to college at Concordia University in St. Paul and received her Bachelor of Arts in Youth Development. While she was working at a group home, she came into contact with adolescent girls who had experienced trauma in their lives, and her passion for that work eventually led her to Amicus Radius.

In working with Radius girls, she draws on some of her own experiences.

"They're not all going to have the same experiences I had, but in the end they're still missing something and I can empathize with that. I've felt alone, that there was no hope, that no adults supported me, so I can identify with that," Angela said.

"I hope to be the person in some of the girls' lives who is there when she needs someone. I had adults in my life who were there when I needed them and I hope to be that person."



*Angela Martinez-Deleon  
Amicus Radius Counselor*

Angela Martinez-Deleon has worked with youth for over 10 years. She has worked in a residential group home for girls, Minneapolis Public Schools, Alternative Learning Centers, and as a camp counselor. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Youth Development from Concordia University St. Paul.

Angela has a specific interest in working with girls who have experienced trauma. Angela serves girls in Hennepin County, primarily North Minneapolis.

"I want to show them that there's hope, that they're capable of doing more and being more. I want to show them that there are people who believe in them."

Angela said one of the best parts of her work with Amicus is the ability to work in north Minneapolis, where she grew up.

"I think it's so awesome to kind of go back home. That's what it feels like," she said. "It makes me feel connected in a different way; I'm involved in a deeper way."