



**Angela Ortiz, Youth Engagement**  
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### **What is your education/career background?**

I graduated from Shelby High School in 2020, and what a year that was! After high school, I attended Muskegon Community College, where I earned an Associate of Science and Arts in Early Childhood Education as well as my Child Development Associate (CDA) credential. While at MCC, I also completed the Michigan Transfer Agreement to support a seamless transition for continuing my education.

For the past six years, I have been involved in early childhood education, working in both assistant and teaching roles throughout Oceana and Muskegon Counties. During the summers between school years, I worked in hospitality. Over the last two years, hospitality became my primary focus, but I always found my way back to the early childhood field whenever I could. I am excited to now dedicate my time and energy to the community where I grew up and benefited from so many opportunities. My goal is to make a lasting impact and help create opportunities for others.

### **What are you looking forward to at the foundation?**

I am thrilled to serve as the Youth Engagement Officer at the Oceana Community Foundation. The opportunity to grow, contribute, and make a meaningful difference is all I could ask for. I look forward to using my experience and perspective to help promote scholarships for students and young adults, as well as support the Read Early, Read Often program.

One of my greatest strengths is connecting with young children, and I am excited to build relationships with the families, students, and community members who help make educational opportunities possible. Together, I hope we can continue expanding access to resources and experiences that help young people thrive.

### **What do you love about Oceana County?**

Oceana County is truly a hidden gem. Born and raised in Shelby, my small hometown was all I knew growing up. Since then, I have had the chance to explore other places, and nothing compares to the sense of community we have here.

There is a unique spirit of compassion, engagement, and neighborly support throughout Oceana County. While there may be a little friendly rivalry between towns from time to time, we all benefit from and celebrate each other's growth, accomplishments, and success. I love that every town offers a new adventure, whether it is exploring nature trails, enjoying Lake Michigan, or discovering local events and attractions.

### **What might others not know about you?**

I am a very proud dog mom! My dog's name is Chili. She may be a little spicy at times, but she will only attack you with love and cuddles. If you are lucky, she might even bark, "Welcome to Chili's," when you visit! I am also trying to learn golf so I can keep up with my siblings. I am still very much a beginner, so any tips and tricks are welcome. And finally, I am the middle child in a family of five. I like to say that middle children are the best, though my siblings might disagree!