



Guardian Angels On Patrol For St. Paul Rapist

Jan 20, 2007

(WCCO) The Guardian Angels are trying to keep the search for a St. Paul rapist in the spotlight.

A 57-year-old woman and 13-year-old girl were both beaten and raped earlier this month.

The Guardian Angels hope a little information will go a long way towards catching a criminal.

You can't miss them in their bright red berets and jackets. When the Guardian Angels come to town, they want to be noticed.

"We are highly visible. That's our biggest thing, we try to be a visual deterrent," said Khaelean, a Guardian Angel from the Minneapolis chapter.

Each member uses a pseudonym while on patrol. The group started in New York, but most of the members on patrol are from North and Northeast Minneapolis.

The citizen patrol is in the Payne Avenue neighborhood of St. Paul trying to help police find a rapist. Police are following up on hundreds of leads, but the Guardian Angels think neighbors can make a difference.

"We are nothing more than a bunch of citizens who cared enough to get together," said one of the group leaders as they prepared to patrol.

They want to make sure everyone in the neighborhood is on guard and looking out for the suspect.

The guardian angels handed out copies of the suspect sketches and tips for protecting yourself, but they're also prepared to do much more.

"We do go through some of our training ... how to detain people, how to disarm people, how to protect ourselves, how to protect our community," said Khaelean.

However, their main mission is educating neighbors and inspiring them to look out for each other.

"I think it's a real good idea to go out, do some good for the community. We should have some on this side of town," said John Shea, a St. Paul Resident.

A few neighborhood volunteers also joined the Guardian Angels on their patrol Saturday.

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