

Davenport, IA - John David reports  
**Guardian Angels training for patrols**

By John David

Before they hit the streets, the newest Guardian Angels get their start at the Friendly House on Saturday. That's where practice makes perfect for the crime fighting team. Training that's crucial before they establish a community presence.

"You have to be fit in order to patrol the streets," said Mike Fuentes, Guardian Angels, before beginning a class with 15 volunteers. "You might come upon a situation where you have to chase a purse snatcher or somebody who just committed a crime."

Just after 11 p.m. on Friday night, volunteers get a feel for becoming a Guardian Angel. That's as the anti-violence group prepares for its first patrol in downtown Davenport. Likely, the first of many patrols to cut crime in the city.

"We walked around," said James Davis. "There were a number of people that kind of ducked into the shadows as we walked through the area."

That combination of preparation and patrols is designed to create a solid effort in the field. That's where they can expect the unexpected.

In the gym, it's all about concentration and coordination. It's fitness with a purpose. Exercise designed to develop new Guardian Angels. A three-month long program before Davenport establishes its own chapter.

"We're not police officers," said Jeremy Boots. "We have families. It's just eyes and ears being out on the street helping people out."

Help with downtown patrols that send a message that this program will work. It's a program to promote safety.

"We know criminals don't want to do business when people are watching," said Charlie Stone. "We hope it will have a positive effect."

And positive motivation for success that makes these workouts worthwhile.

