



## Special Report: The Guardian Angels, A Reporter's Blog

The Guardian Angels have been helping to keep communities safe for over 28 years. This year some people decided to start a chapter in Davenport. The Angels began patrolling in late March, graduated their first class in July, and now seven months later are keeping a watchful eye over the city.

I went on patrol with the Angels for the first time a couple of weeks ago. We wanted to see how they have progressed and how people in the community are reacting to the red berets. We caught up with the second patrol of the night. The first one walks the city from 7 p.m. until about 11 at night. The second one starts around 11 and walks until around 3 in the morning.

So, we just started walking. Usually there is no set path, unless an area has been giving the Angels trouble. The Angels take their job very seriously. They rarely talk unless it has something to do with what's going on around them; they don't answer cell phones, and are constantly watching every angle around them.

The Angels took us to Myrtle Street. They say one of the blocks on the street is one of their biggest accomplishments. The Angels described how they surrounded all areas on the block so people couldn't get in to buy drugs. We found a lot of people out and about around the bars by the downtown area. Most of them say they are very happy to have the angels around. They say it makes them feel safer and appreciate what the Angels do.

We did find a bouncer who said the Angels aren't needed. He said they just get in the way because the down town area has enough law enforcement.

Police officers were leery of the Guardian Angels when the program was starting up. Chief Don Schaeffer says that's just because a learning process had to take place. And now that it has Schaeffer says he's comfortable with the angles and has had many good reports about them.

As for the future, the Chief says he would like to see the Angels and Officers work together. For example if there is a big event going on in the city, Schaeffer says perhaps the Angels could walk around the area, making sure people get to and from their cars safely. The Angels say they are always looking for more people to join. If you would like more information on the Guardian Angels just call 563-508-2153. .

