



## Green Bay **Guardian Angels Still Active**

Updated: Nov 21, 2007 01:46 AM

By [Sarah Thomsen](#)

A volunteer group intended to prevent crime by patrolling the streets changes its direction in Green Bay.

The local Guardian Angels group formed in Green Bay in 2003 to help the city crack down on gang tensions in some neighborhoods.

Now members are volunteering to help patrol a southside Milwaukee neighborhood where police say two officers were shot earlier this month during shootouts involving rival gang members.

We haven't seen or heard much from the Green Bay Guardian Angels in the last few years, when they marched through neighborhoods in their bright red berets and jackets. They don't patrol so much any more, director Jason Costa says, because he feels social problems are the real root of problems.

"We're trying to address those issues in hopes that by solving those issues we can somewhat correct the problem," Costa said.

That's why he has his 80 or so Guardian Angels involved in as many community service activities as they can do.

"Maybe three or four times a week to do community service. It's a big part, yeah, a major part," Rafael Solorio said.

But so is preventing crime in other cities that could eventually spread to Green Bay.

"It's been my understanding for a very long time that most of our problems, you know, even though we're having them here, they're somehow related to the larger cities that are in our vicinity, be it families that move in, either youths or adults, but for the most part it's the family that comes from outside of Green Bay, and it's my hope that by addressing their issues I can sort of cut off the situation before it gets here," Costa said.

So this past weekend, Costa took high school juniors and Guardian Angels Solorio and Miguel Haro to Milwaukee to patrol like they once did in Green Bay.

"They had a really, really positive attitude when we were there, and they just were like shouting, 'Oh thank God you're back,' and it was just a really, really good feeling," Haro said.

"That was the best thing ever, just watching an elderly lady come up to you and say 'Thank you for being here, I feel much safer.' It just, it feels like it just gave me a paycheck. It feels good that people feel safe because I'm there, and that's part of why we do this," Solorio said.

The Angels plan to go back to Milwaukee until they feel their mission is completed.

