



Posted: 5:15 PM Aug 20, 2009

Where are the Guardian Angels?

It's been -24- hours since [Omaha's](#) latest homicide. It is the 16th murder in Omaha this year.

So -- what happened to a worldwide anti-violence group, the Guardian Angels that promised to help reduce violence?

Two years ago, violence in Omaha was so bad that Curtis Sliwa, the leader of the Guardian Angels came to Omaha.

Members wearing the familiar beret were patrolling the community.

But since that time, the Guardian Angels have all but disappeared from Omaha's streets. There are a lot of reasons for that, the main one a lack of numbers.

But there is a small group of Omahans who would like to the group make a resurgence.

Emanuel Rodriguez is the Omaha chapter's new leader.

"I've only been in it for less than a year now so we've been really slowly building up the whole chapter again," he said.

Rodriguez says the Guardian Angels can make a difference, if people get involved.

"There's still not enough people willing to get up out of the home and say lets do something about it," he said.

Matt Simmons has been a Guardian Angel for about a month. He says it's a way to help protect what he loves most.

"Think about your family...if you want them to be safe on the streets you don't have to keep looking out the window to see if your son or daughter is all right," he said.

Jeremy [Montgomery](#) moved here from California this summer. He's surprised at the level of violence in Omaha and hopes to make a difference.

"Omaha has a lot of beautiful streets that could be kept really nice if the community would get together and help keep it that way," he said.

These men hope to form the core of the new Omaha chapter.

But they say they can't do it alone.

"There's strength in numbers and the more people we get behind us and the more people that get involved the better off we'll be," Rodriguez said.

The Omaha chapter wants anyone interested in joining the [organization](#) to contact them at 706-6717.

Prospective members will undergo extensive background checks and training sessions.