

Island news

# Guardian Angel group and locals search for girl

BY ADVANCE STAFF WRITER

Several members of the Guardian Angels joined nearly 40 volunteers and police in the hunt for Jennifer Schweiger yesterday.

But once again the day ended without a trace of the missing 12-year-old.

The volunteers gathered around noon in front of the Holy Family R.C. Church, Westerleigh, and searched the wooded area between Arlene Street in Graniteville and Graham Avenue in Bulls Head until about 4 p.m.

Police also found nothing as they finished their search of the Richmond and Fresh Kills creeks, and Fresh Kills Landfill area in Travis.

Detectives handling Jennifer's disappearance had no new leads in the case.

Donna Cotagno, a spokesman for the Friends of Jennifer group, said there is a good possibility that a representative from the Yankees and Mets will soon endorse the search via a public-service announcement.

The Yankees this past weekend circulated pictures of the missing

girl at stadium concession stands and flashed her picture on the scoreboard several times.

Jennifer has Down's syndrome and congenital heart disease. She vanished from a street near her Wardwell Avenue home July 9 and was last seen on the grounds of the Staten Island Developmental Center, police reported.

Anyone who may have seen the girl or has information concerning her disappearance is asked to call a 24-hour police hotline number, 447-4168.

Volunteers joining in the search meet daily at noon and 7 p.m. at Holy Family R.C. Church on Watchogue Road. Those interested in volunteering can contact the Friends of Jennifer at 494-5460.

Donations are still being collected to increase a \$5,000 reward being offered for Jennifer's safe return and the conviction of anyone who may have been responsible for her disappearance.

Donations can be sent to the Jennifer Schweiger Fund, P.O. Box 961, Staten Island, N.Y. 10314.