



Posted on Tue, Mar. 04, 2008

Carjackers steal Meals on Wheels van

By DEBRA SKODACK and CHRISTINE VENDEL
The Kansas City Star

Even for a couple of carjackers, this was pretty low.

Two men stole a Meals on Wheels van around noon Tuesday as 20 low-income seniors and people with disabilities waited in their homes for lunch to arrive.

The driver of the Don Bosco Centers van was about halfway through his route in Kansas City's Northeast area when he stopped at a red light at Lexington and Brooklyn avenues, police said.

Two men came up to the white 1995 Chevrolet cargo van, and one man pointed a revolver at the driver's face. After pulling the driver from the van, the gunman and his partner got in and fled north on Brooklyn.

The driver, who is in his late 60s, was taken to a hospital with scrapes and bruises.

For some of those who were waiting for lunch, Tuesday's beef enchiladas, refried beans, salad, bananas and milk might have been their only meal, said Don Bosco spokeswoman Jennifer Anthony.

"Individuals really count on our program," Anthony said. "For something like this to happen is certainly a hardship on the clients we work hard to serve."

Anthony said the centers called all the clients to make sure they had something to eat.

Don Bosco had only liability insurance on the van, so if it isn't recovered, the nonprofit group will have to pay for a replacement. The van that was stolen had a Missouri license plate, No. 918-GS7. The food warmers and catering dishes inside the van were worth \$2,000, Anthony said. The meals were valued at \$1.25 each.

For now, Don Bosco's three other Meals on Wheels vans will serve the additional clients. The program provides lunches to 400 needy people each weekday.

To reach Debra Skodack, call 816-234-4738 or send e-mail to dskodack@kcstar.com. To reach Christine Vendel, call 816-234-4438 or send e-mail to cvendel@kcstar.com.

© 2007 Kansas City Star and wire service sources. All Rights Reserved. <http://www.kansascity.com>