



BROTHERS BROOKS
VISION 2 MISSION LLC

Volume 4, Issue 1

Newsletter Date
January 2020



Special points of interest:

- **Built For Zero**
- **A family member hit her. Then she and her baby became homeless. Then she found a future.**
- **Word on the Street**

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WE CARE NEWS!!!

An Informative Newsletter regarding the Homeless, Stranded and Down & Out in America

BUILT FOR ZERO—COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS TO END HOMELESSNESS



More than 80 communities in the United States — and nearly 50 more around the world — are redefining what is possible in the movement to end homelessness.

Built for Zero is a methodology, a movement, and proof of what is possible. Anchored in a commitment to driving to zero, cities and counties have changed how local homeless response systems work and the impact they can achieve.

By harnessing the power of real-time, person-specific data and problem-solving skills from other sectors, more than half of those cities and counties have achieved reductions in the number of people experiencing chronic

and veteran homelessness. Eleven of those communities have ended homelessness for a population by reaching a standard called Functional Zero.

Together, they are proving that moral courage, data-driven thinking, and a system-wide approach can build a future where homelessness is rare overall and brief when it occurs.

Communities are proving it does not have to be this way.

Cities and counties across the United States are reducing and ending homelessness one population at a time.

Eleven communities have driven those numbers down all the way to a milestone for ending homelessness known as Functional Zero — including the first county in the country to end chronic homelessness. By reaching this milestone, communities are building a future where

homelessness is a rare and brief experience, and never an enduring or recurring force in anyone's life.

What is needed: will and action to realign systems, combined with resources to end homelessness.

More than \$12 billion is invested in responding to homelessness every year. But communities are proving that resources can only end homelessness if systems and investments are realigned around getting to zero first.

If your community is working to end chronic and veteran homelessness, don't do it alone!

Join more than 70 other communities in Built for Zero, a movement of communities working to end homelessness for good, leaving no one behind.

info@community.solutions
<https://www.joinbuiltforzero.org/>

A FAMILY MEMBER HIT HER. THEN SHE AND HER BABY BECAME HOMELESS. THEN SHE FOUND A FUTURE.

It was 30 stair steps from the door of the apartment to the street, and LaShawn Claiborne remembers counting each one, praying she wouldn't trip, carrying her 8-month-old daughter in a stroller. She'd come back to Seattle to try to make a life: She was raised by her fa-

ther, relatives and foster families back east, but she needed a new start, and she thought she could do that if she came back to where she was born.

Claiborne's story is rife with many of the modern causes of family homelessness: wages that don't cover rent,

conflict within families, and domestic violence. Things started out all right: She stayed with family in a Federal Way apartment and got a job at Walmart in less than two weeks. ut Claiborne felt as if her baby wasn't safe while she was at

CONTINUED ON PG 2



Our Mission: To end the cycle of family homelessness.

Our Vision: A community in which every child has a safe and stable home.

**Wellsprings
Family Services**
1900 Rainer Avenue South
Seattle, WA 98144
Phone: 206-826-3050
Fax: 877-903-0711
<http://wellspringfs.org/>



“One person can make a difference, and everyone should try.”
— John F. Kennedy



SPOT LIGHT— WELLSPRING FAMILY SERVICES

History

Wellspring Family Services has been helping individuals and families experiencing crisis since 1892, just three decades after the City of Seattle was officially formed.

Although we have changed our name and adapted our program throughout our 120+ years, there are elements of our mission that have and will forever remain constant.

- We foster innovative ways to meet emerging

needs in the community.

- We support individuals and families experiencing crisis take the next step forward by tapping into their own resilience and strength
- We focus on the root cause of problems to give families the permanent solutions they need to build healthy relationships and stable lives.
- We build effective community partnerships

to better address acute and chronic social issues

We achieve our mission through the effective provision of social and mental health services that help strengthen families, addressing a broad range of issues that can negatively affect their lives.

Our Services

- ◇ Community Services
- ◇ Counseling
- ◇ EAP

Who Qualifies for HUD Housing?

How to Qualify

To qualify for public housing as an individual, you must either be elderly or have a disability, and you must also have low income. Families can qualify for HUD housing if their income falls below certain levels. All housing agencies use income limits published by HUD, and they must show preference to applicants with lower incomes. You may qualify for HUD

housing if your income is below 80 percent of the median income for your city or county, but housing agencies must provide at least 75 percent of their funding to applicants with incomes at or below 30 percent of the area's median income.

How to Apply

To apply for HUD housing, submit a written application to your local housing

agency. The application requires the name of everyone who will live in the home, your current contact information, your family circumstances, contact information for previous landlords and your estimated income for the next 12 months. After receiving the application, the agency may visit your current home to evaluate how well you care for it.

By: Amanda McMullen

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1—A FAMILY MEMBER HIT HER. THEN SHE AND HER BABY BECAME HOMELESS THEN SHE FOUND A FUTURE. BY THE SEATTLE TIMES

and she didn't get along with the relative she was staying with. She decided to leave after a fight with her relative. As she was getting ready to go, the relative hit her in the face, according to a police report. But Claiborne didn't want to stay at Walmart: She wanted to go back to school to study nursing, so Wellspring nominated her for a \$10,000 scholarship from the Wom-

en's University Club, which she won through a competitive application process, with help from Wellspring. "The first cycle I wanted to break was being a mother, because I didn't have that. I don't want to have a child and then have that child raised by somebody else," Claiborne said. "My second cycle I wanted to break was being homeless. ... I want to live my life without worry-

ing about evictions and bills and my child being out on the street." Claiborne is now studying pre-nursing online at a college in Florida, where she plans on moving to finish the degree

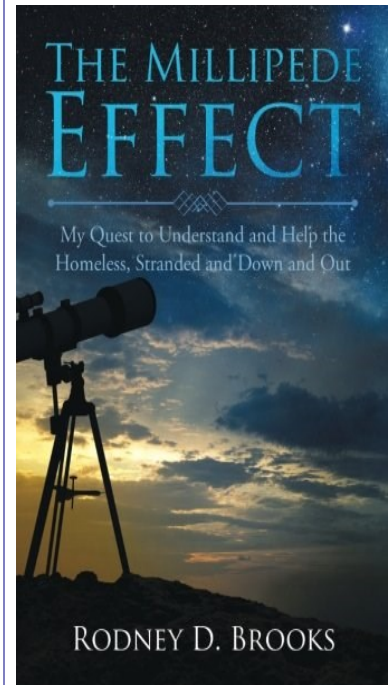


THE MILLIPEDE EFFECT

Several years in the making, "The Millipede Effect" has been released by Authorhouse Publishing this past January. The book lays out BBV2M LLC founder and President Rodney Brooks quest to understand the homeless, stranded and down & out. From movies to our own perceptions, it all shapes how we approach this situation. Brooks looks at Government, Civic Organizations and religion (the Church) as all play a major part in finding ways to help the plight of the homeless. These different groups

display on a daily basis their commitment to service, financial giving and voluntary work. Like the millipede with its many body parts/ compartments (government, civic, religion) and its many legs (the people driving these various groups); there are many misconceptions about those that are homeless. The book looks at those various challenges as well hear from several of those that are homeless, stranded and down & out. Brooks introduces us to his spirit filled purpose and calling in helping the homeless, stranded and down & out

as well he walks us through what the various religions say about each individual of faith and their role in being a part of the solution. The book can be ordered through [Authorhouse Publishing](http://bookstore.authorhouse.com/Products/SKU-001092211/The--Millipede-Effect.aspx) at <http://bookstore.authorhouse.com/Products/SKU-001092211/The--Millipede-Effect.aspx> or [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com/) at <https://www.amazon.com/>



HOMELESS
Give them a hand
not the boot

Word on The Street — Meridian City Council Approves New Panhandling

The first ordinance deals with private businesses and panhandling.

The new panhandling ordinance would allow private businesses to display a sign that clearly states no panhandling.

If panhandling occurs the panhandler will be arrested and charged with panhandling, begging or related

activities. Property owners will have certain guidelines on where a sign will need to be placed and what it needs to say.

The second ordinance passed makes it unlawful for anyone on the street to pass an item to a driver or a driver to pass an item to someone on the street.

According to state law, a

misdemeanor crime has to occur in front of a witness or officer for the officer to charge that person.

If someone takes a photo of someone panhandling and leaves before officers get there, the business owner would have to go to the police department and file charges.

The City hopes the public will appreciate these



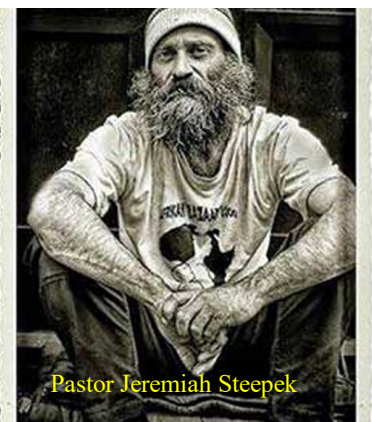
THE STORY OF PASTOR JEREMIAH STEEPEK

[HTTPS://WWW.GODVINE.COM/READ/PASTOR-JEREMIAH-280.HTML](https://www.godvine.com/read/pastor-jeremiah-280.html)— MATTHEW 25:40-45

Pastor Jeremiah Steeppek transformed himself into a homeless person and went to the 10,000 member church that he was to be introduced as the head pastor at that morning. He walked around and only 3 people out of the 7-10,000 people said hello to him. He asked people for change to buy food...NO ONE in the church gave him change. He went into the sanctuary to

sit down in the front of the church and was asked by the ushers if he would please sit in the back. He greeted people to be greeted back with stares and dirty looks, with people looking down on him and judging him. As he sat in the back of the church, he listened to the announcements and such. When all that was done, the elders went up and introduced the new pastor to the congrega-

tion. "We would like to introduce to you Pastor Jeremiah Steeppek" The congregation looked around clapping with joy and anticipation. The homeless man sitting in the back stood up and started walking down the aisle the clapping stopped with ALL eyes on him....he walked up the altar and took the microphone from the elders (who were in on this) and paused..



Pastor Jeremiah Steeppek

**BROTHERS BROOKS
VISION 2 MISSION LLC**

BBV2M LLC
Meridian, MS 39305

601-701-8873
bbv2mlc@gmail.com
bbv2m-
brothersbrooksvision2missionllc.com
Facebook - BBV2MLLC
Twitter - @bbv2mlc



*A Heritage of Excellence
in Helping Others!!!*



WE ARE.....

At BBV2M LLC our vision is to help all people excel in all aspects of life. The challenges facing the homeless, stranded and down & out is such a daunting task. There are great organizations in both the public and private sector with many wonderful people who are on the frontline in ensuring that these individual are taken care of and have a voice. Our goal is to due our part by assistance , education and support. Although our organization was founded in 2015 our heritage stretches back over seven decades of assisting and helping others. The patriarchs of the family instilled the values and beliefs of helping others through the biblical teaching of God's word. Our goal is to be the bridge that helps those in need that are homeless, stranded and down & out get to the proper resources to assist them in their endeavors. This has been spiritually rewarding for us as we truly look to fulfill our purpose of helping others.

You Can Help.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

James says it best "If a brother or sister is poorly clothed or lacks daily food, and one of you say to them , "Go in peace, keep warm and eat well," but does not give them what the body needs, what good is it? (James 2:15-16) Those of us who have been given the ability to practice our faith through our works should do so. The opportunity to help our brothers and sisters in need are tremendous. If you are already doing so then I salute you and ask as well as pray that you continue to do so. If you are not or have wondered how then let me give you a couple of suggestions. Your preference in helping is based how you feel in your heart assist.

There are many national and local charitable agencies that work with the homeless. Each of these organizations have a platform and plan on who and how they help those that are homeless. Most organization do take financial donations but they also look for volunteers and advocates. Your local Church or other places of worship also has various types of ministries that are deigned to help the poor and down trodden. Your local or national Wounded Warrior chapter that is designed to help our veterans who are homeless. Whatever your preference in helping; it all starts with you. Let's each do our part in 2018 and be exceptional stewards of Love!



Rodney D. Brooks
**Author and President &
Founder of Brothers Brooks
Vision 2 Mission LLC.**
(BBV2M LLC)