



**BROTHERS BROOKS**  
VISION 2 MISSION LLC

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**Special points of interest:**

- **Biden administration extends eviction moratorium through July**
- **Employment alone isn't enough to solve homelessness, study suggests**
- **Word on the Street**

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# WE CARE NEWS!!!

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

## BIDEN ADMINISTRATION EXTENDS EVICTION MORATORIUM THROUGH JULY



The halt to evictions and foreclosures was in place to stave off a potential wave of homelessness at the onset of the coronavirus pandemic.

The Biden administration said that it would extend the temporary bans on evictions and foreclosures for another month as the country continues to rebound from the coronavirus pandemic.

The announcement comes as some states have struggled to spend the \$21.5 billion in emergency rental aid included in the American Rescue Plan earlier this year, allowing states an additional month

to work through a crush of applications and distribute the money before the funds expire.

The pause on evictions and foreclosures for federally backed mortgages were set to expire at the end of June.

The White House and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which issued the extension to the eviction ban, made clear that July would be the "final" month of the benefit.

The departments of Housing and Urban Development, Veterans Affairs and Agriculture said they would continue to allow homeowners who have not yet taken advantage of mortgage forbearance to enter into Covid-related forbearance programs through Sept. 30. The agencies will make an additional announcement in July "to offer borrowers payment reduction options that will enable more homeowners to stay in their

homes," the White House said.

An administration official said that while the economy is beginning to pick up again, the CDC's extension on the eviction ban underscored the "urgency" for state and local governments to get the rental aid to tenants who need it.

The White House said the Treasury Department would work with states to help them rapidly distribute the money and would issue new guidelines making clear that the money could be used to avoid eviction. The Treasury Department is also encouraging states to make the application process more accessible so that language or documentation barriers do not keep eligible families from benefiting from the assistance.

By Lauren Egan  
NBC News

## EMPLOYMENT ALONE ISN'T ENOUGH TO SOLVE HOMELESSNESS, STUDY SUGGESTS

More than half of people residing in homeless shelters in the United States had formal earnings in the same year they were homeless, according to a new study that deepens understanding of housing insecurity in the U.S. Among unhoused individuals who were not in

shelters, about 40% had earnings from formal employment. The findings contrast with common perceptions and stereotypes about people who are homeless—suggesting that even consistent work isn't enough to help Americans facing skyrocketing housing costs. Led by Prof. Bruce D. Meyer, a

preeminent scholar of U.S. poverty, the research offers the first highly accurate snapshot of those experiencing homelessness across the country and examines factors such as labor market attachment, geographic mobility, earnings, population characteristics and safety net usage.



## OUR MISSION

**Our mission is to strengthen neighborhoods, seek justice, and transform lives.**

### Back Bay Mission

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## SPOT LIGHT— BACK BAY MISSIONS

Back Bay Mission has a simple mission: to strengthen neighborhoods, seek justice, and transform lives. We strengthen neighborhoods through ministries like our education and empowerment programs and our housing rehabilitation program. These vital ministries help the people we serve be a part of, and build, their communities on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. As volunteers take what they learn at Back Bay Mission home with them, they have

the opportunity to strengthen their own neighborhoods. We seek justice by helping the people we serve become more involved in their communities, educating people about the realities of poverty, and advocating on behalf of marginalized people in our community. All of our programs transform lives. Whether we're helping a homeowner keep their home, mentoring a single mother as she plans her path out of poverty, or working with an intern who is think-

ing about a career in social work, we're making the lives of the people we serve better. Back Bay Mission is the only presence of the United Church of Christ on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. We embody the extravagant welcome of the United Church of Christ in our relationships with clients, sup-



## HUD: \$5 billion nationwide to house people experiencing homelessness

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Marcia L. Fudge announced the allocation of \$5 billion in American Rescue Plan funds for emergency housing vouchers for individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness. New York will receive 9,925 vouchers awarded to 24 local public housing authorities and local governments.

The supplemental funding is allocated through the emergency housing voucher (EHV) program. Through EHV, HUD is providing 70,000 housing choice vouchers to local public housing authorities (PHAs) across the country to help Americans find and remain in housing. Locally, 72 vouchers will be sent to the Town of Amherst, with another 71 to the City of Buf-

falo. "While most of us spent more time in our homes than we ever have, more than half a million Americans had to spend the last year either in crowded shelters or sleeping outside," Fudge said. "With HUD's swift allocation of this \$5 billion in American Rescue Plan funding, we are providing communities the resources to give homes to the people who have had to endure the COVID-19 pandemic without one."

## EMPLOYMENT ALONE ISN'T ENOUGH TO SOLVE HOMELESSNESS, STUDY SUGGEST , CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

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"People experiencing homelessness are among the most deprived individuals in the United States, yet they are neglected in official poverty statistics and other surveys," said Meyer, the McCormick Foundation Professor at Harris Public Policy. "As a result, policymakers and others interested in understanding this overlooked and at-risk population have

never had complete or reliable information from which to guide decision-making until now." The new study is the first in a series of planned reports on homelessness from the Comprehensive Income Dataset (CID) Project, an effort to build the most accurate dataset on economic well-being ever created for the United States. To better understand the homeless

population specifically, the researchers constructed an unprecedented dataset—a census of the entire U.S. homeless population in 2010 linked with individual-level administrative data on government benefits and tax records. by University of Chicago



## 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/>

### Word on The Street — Housing is a Human Right Act of 2021 Introduced in U.S. House of Representatives

On June 8, U.S. Representatives Pramila Jayapal (WA-07) and Grace Meng (NY-06), introduced the Housing is a Human Right Act of 2021, a bill to "address and end root causes of homelessness; transition communities towards providing housing for all; and ensure full democratic participation of persons experiencing homelessness." The National Homeless Law

Center is proud to have worked with Representative Jayapal to develop the Housing is a Human Right Act. This transformative legislation will authorize more than \$300 billion for crucial housing infrastructure to reduce homelessness across America. Endorsed by dozens of groups working on the frontlines of the growing housing instability crisis, this urgent proposal will invest

more than \$200 billion in necessary affordable housing and support services.. Additionally, the bill puts forward \$27 billion a year for homelessness services, provides \$100 million a year for community-driven alternatives to criminalization of those experiencing homelessness, and makes targeted investments in communities at disproportionate risk of homelessness.

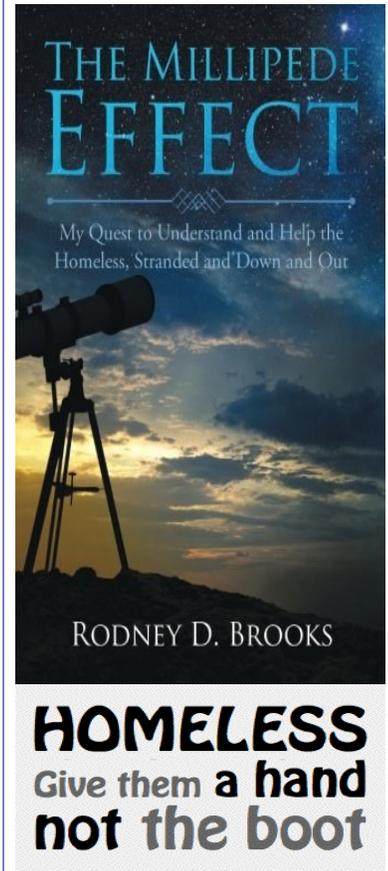
## PAUL'S STORY OF HOMELESSNESS

Paul found himself homeless after struggling with his mental health and relationships with his family started to break down. I've suffered with bad anxiety and self-esteem since I was a child. I was shy and lacking in confidence and I never felt like I fitted in. Growing up, mental health wasn't something people talked about openly, you were expected just to get on with things. That's when I

found out about the programs that St Mungo's offer for clients, including courses and training with the Recovery College. I read about Putting Down Roots, their horticultural therapy and training project – and I decided to give it a go. I'd always thought gardening was a bit boring. I didn't have any experience and I thought it was a hobby for retired people! Arriving for my first day of

training, I was very anxious, but the staff and the other clients were great. I started going to weekly training sessions at the Castle Park Physic Garden in Bristol, developing new skills and connecting with people who had similar experiences. The garden was a safe, non-judgmental space for us to work together.

**St Mungo's**  
Ending homelessness  
Rebuilding lives



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*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 patri-archs 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**  
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Founder of Brothers Brooks  
Vision 2 Mission LLC.**  
**(BBV2M LLC)**