



Special points of interest:

- **Startling Statistics—
Numbers are not
People**
- **Ring in Christmas
Cheer to the Home-
less to Close out 2016**
- **Word on the Street**

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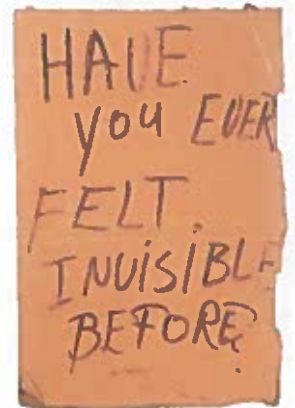
WE CARE NEWS!!!

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

STARTLING STATISTICS

According to the Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress—On a single night in 2016, 549,928 people were experiencing homelessness in the United States. A majority (68%) was staying in emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, or safe havens, and 32 percent were in unsheltered locations. In a country of over 325 million people, the homeless number equates to roughly 1.7% of the general population on a given day.. That may not seem like a large number but that number in total would represent the 35th largest city in the United States. The trend has been heading downward as it relates to homelessness in the U.S. from 647,000 in 2007 the current state of 549,000 in 2016. Analyzing the trend in a 10 year period homelessness has dropped about 100,000 which is roughly a

cumulative 15% reduction over the 10 year period. Another way of looking at it is that there has been a 10,000 person reduction each year which roughly is a 1.5% reduction each year. So the question is what can be done to accelerate the downward trend? The unemployment rate during the same period went from 10% or 15.5 million in 2009 to its current rate of 4.6% or 7.4 million people. A lot of attention is paid to this number on a monthly basis. A lot of debate is had on this number. Unfortunately the homeless number does not get the same national attention or vigorous debate. Some may argue that the homeless number is captured in the unemployment number. Unfortunately the unemployment number is based upon claims filed; all of those that are homeless do not file unemployment claims.



**The Plight of the Homeless in
America**



WHAT IS HOMELESSNESS?

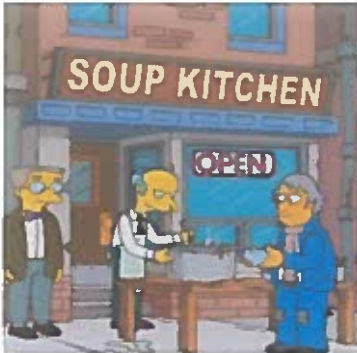
Homelessness is an individual without permanent housing who may live on the streets; stay in a shelter, mission or single room occupancy facilities. There reason for being in such a condition can be for any of the following reasons:

- **Foreclosures**
- **Poverty**
- **Eroding Work Opportunities**
- **Decline in Public Assistance**
- **Housing**
- **Lack of Affordable Health Care**
- **Domestic Violence**
- **Mental Illness**
- **Addiction Disorders.**





SPOT LIGHT—A PILLAR OF KINDNESS IN MERIDIAN, MS L.O.V.E.'S KITCHEN



This is not your traditional Soup



When it comes to warmth, kindness and true Southern Hospitality; no one does it better than L.O.V.E.'S (Lauderdale Outreach and Volunteer Effort Inc.) Kitchen and its Executive Director, Fannie Johnson. For over three decades L.O.V.E.'S Kitchen has been serving the community by offering hot meals to the homeless and those in need of food. With an army of volunteers and businesses whose sole purpose is to share the blessing they have received to those who may be

less fortunate. Today we spotlight L.O.V.E.'s Kitchen and its great work. If you would like to support L.O.V.E.'S Kitchen in its efforts, you can do so by contacting:

L.O.V.E.'S Kitchen
P.O. Box 562
80118th Ave
Meridian, MS 39302
Attention
Fannie Johnson,
Executive Director
601-693-1409



WHO AND WHAT IS HUD? US HOUSING DEPARTMENT OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT

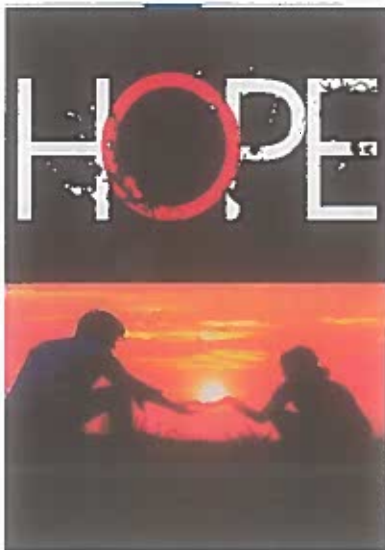
Taken from the HUD Website at <https://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD>

HUD serves over 1 million people through emergency, transitional, and permanent housing programs each year. The total number of peoples who experience homelessness could be twice as high. There are four federally defined categories under which individuals and families might qualify as homeless

1. Literally homeless
2. Imminent risk of homelessness
3. Homeless under other Federal statutes; and
4. Fleeing /attempting to flee domestic violence

HUD's office of Special Needs Assistance Programs (SNAPS) supports the nationwide commitment to ending homelessness by providing

funding opportunities to non-profit organizations and State and local governments to quickly re-house homeless individuals and families. Through these opportunities, SNAPS advocates self-sufficiency and promotes the effective utilization of mainstream resources available to individuals and families experiencing homelessness.. Taken from the HUD website.



WHAT HAPPENS WHEN PEOPLE LOSE HOPE?

One of the most basic instincts of all people is to have hope in something. It could be hope in someone or something, Hope in God or some other higher power. Hope in our Government or an organization. Whatever that hope is in, it allows for people to have a certain sense of pride and dignity that tomorrow will be a better day even if they may not know how it will be a better day. Hope can

be defined as a feeling of expectation and desire for a certain thing to happen. The Christian definition of hope is that solid reassurance that God makes a way when there is no way. No matter which definition that you use, suppose that that belief in the meaning you prescribe to did not exist. Your world now becomes bleak. Each day millions of people who are homeless, down & out

and stranded feel they are facing a hopeless situation every day in their lives. Each day hundreds and sometimes thousands of people walk by them as if they do not exist. Who are these individuals? They are individuals just like you and me who have had a setback in life and just need a helping hand to reassure them that there is still hope in their lives.

HOLIDAY CARE TO CLOSE OUT 2016

As we have closed out the 2016 year we are continually reminded that there is still a major need. This year in Meridian, MS, the Salvation Army's 2016 Red Kettle campaign came up over 30 percent short of its target. That was roughly \$35,000 that the organization had projected but did not achieve. Similar stories are being reported around the country, Normally for the Homeless the holiday season beginning at Thanksgiving is a time when

most are in the giving spirit and it is reflected in donations to charitable organization and soup kitchens throughout the country. Whether it is holiday cheer or individuals feeling obligated to give this time a year; the benefit boom during the holidays is normally a great windfall. In the case of the Salvation Army; although its Kettle Program may take a hit this year; however its Angel Tree Program will not. Donation to this program continue to be strong. Unfortunately for some it is an either or. Do I help those or-

ganization during this time of year that are geared more towards children or do I look to help those that are homeless or down & out. I think it is great that during the holidays that we find the opportunity to try and bring some normalcy to the lives of those the may not feel that way during other times of the year. However it would be great if we could have that same caring spirit through our the year. What a blessing that would be.



Christmas Bags given to the Homeless by BBV2M LLC

WORD ON THE STREET

According to **Captain**, homeless white male: "These streets are mean. It is about survival by any way that you can. I am not talking about doing anything illegal but man you do have to know how to hustle. You have to learn how to protect your stuff. Sometimes there is a brotherhood out here when there are guys that you know but most of the time it is not."

According to **T.R.**, homeless black male: "Yea its kind of tough trying to find a job. You know everybody is looking for you to have specific skills. I will work but man if people won't hire me then it isn't much I can do. So I try not to bother anybody and you know I don't ask for anything unless I just got to have it. I am use to being out here on the streets so I am cool."



LEGAL NEWS—WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD FOR THE DOJ?

"The use of the criminal justice system to punish those whose only crime is being poor and without housing is not worthy of our great nation. It is unconstitutional and, moreover, it is bad public policy. Such policies only reinforce and strengthen the vicious cycle that entrap too many of our fellow citizens in poverty and homelessness. It is time – indeed, it is past

time – for this to end. The negative, long term impact of these policies on our society and on individual Americans is real, incalculable, and unnecessary.

The criminalization of homelessness must end. It is costly, unjust, and clearly not a solution to homelessness." This was an excerpt from Former Attorney General Eric

Holder. As the Justice Department looks to change in 2017 with a new administration; the question will be what is the new AGs thoughts on the criminalization of the homeless. As many cities look for ways to revamp and revitalize ways on increasing revenue; the question is *will pure economics outweigh compassion and morality?*

HOMELESS
Give them a hand
not the boot

"The criminalization of homelessness must end. It is costly, unjust, and clearly not a solution to homelessness."

**Former Attorney General
Eric Holder**



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

We are on the web at bbv2m-brothersbrooksvision2missionllc.com



**GET
INVOLVED!**
VOLUNTEER TODAY

WE ARE.....

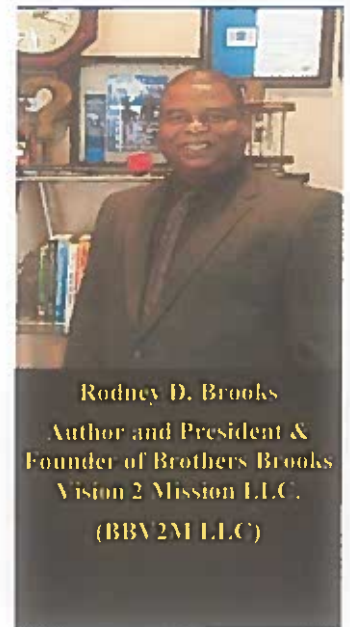
At BBV2M LLC our vision is to help all people excel in all aspects of life. The challenges facing the homeless, stranded and down & out is such a daunting task. There are great organizations in both the public and private sector with many wonderful people who are on the frontline in ensuring that these 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.



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 designed 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 2017 and be exceptional stewards of Love!



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Founder of Brothers Brooks
Vision 2 Mission LLC.
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