



**BROTHERS BROOKS**  
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**Special points of interest:**

- **D.C. opens first shelter for homeless LGBTQ+ adults**
- **What the homeless need right now**
- **Word on the Street**

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# WE CARE NEWS!!!

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



## D.C. OPENS FIRST SHELTER FOR HOMELESS LGBTQ+ ADULTS

When Barbara A. Martin was 19, she said, she “burst out of the closet.” She was afraid and unsure of how her family might respond to hearing her declare that she is a lesbian, she said, but she couldn’t hold her truth in anymore. Her parents were devastated. They mocked her, she said, and made her feel ashamed and unsafe in her own home. So, she left. Martin, like many members of the LGBTQ+ community, began a new life with nothing but what she could carry with her out the door.

She struggled on and off with addiction, depression and homelessness. Back then, she said, there were no safe places for her to seek refuge. But today, Martin stood alongside D.C. officials and community advocates to announce the opening of the District’s first low-barrier shelter for LGBTQ+ adults — a vulnerable population that often falls through the cracks in the homeless services system.

Laura Zeilinger, the director of

the D.C. Department of Human Services, which oversees many of the city’s homelessness programs, said that the most recent numbers indicate that about 18 percent of the District’s unsheltered adults — those who spend their nights in tents, cars and otherwise outside of the city’s shelter system — identify as members of the LGBTQ+ community. Among those who have sought refuge in shelters, Zeilinger added, about 7 percent identify as members of the LGBTQ+ community.

This disparity, according to data collected during the 2022 point-in-time count, “tells you something about why we need this shelter,” Zeilinger said.

Mayor Bowser promised to end homelessness. Here’s how it’s going.

With oversized scissors in hand, Mayor Muriel E. Bowser (D) cut through a rainbow ribbon strung across the entrance of the new shelter in Ward 7 on Thursday as a small crowd cheered in the late-morning heat. The shelter, which has yet to be officially named —

the mayor’s office said they are seeking input from the community before announcing the name — will open its doors to unhoused residents in the beginning of August. At any given time, 40 people will be given beds in the facility, which will also provide access to other supportive services to residents who come to the facility seeking refuge. Those services include life skills training, continuing education classes, substance abuse treatment programs, employment assistance, job placement programs, mental health resources and other links to community resources specific to the LGBTQ community.



## WHAT THE HOMELESS NEED RIGHT NOW

New York Mayor Adams’ subway safety plan is promising. The subway is no substitute for a home, and the mayor is right to take action to get homeless New Yorkers living underground

— many of whom are dealing with mental health and substance abuse struggles — the services they require and a place to stay. But these vulnerable New Yorkers will need more than just a place to stay if they are going to thrive; they will need a home of their own. There’s more bad news: We just took a step backward on our way to funding the thousands more new supportive housing units we need. Hochul included a notable

going to thrive; they will need a home of their own. There’s more bad news: We just took a step backward on our way to funding the thousands more new supportive housing units we need. Hochul included a notable

## Wingard Home Ministry

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## SPOT LIGHT— WINGARD HOME MINISTRY

Wingard Home is a long term transition home for the homeless and displaced of Jackson, Mississippi and the surrounding area. We are dedicated to keeping the family unit intact. Unlike the “shelters,” Wingard Home takes a holistic approach to solve the problems of homelessness! At the Jackson Campus, we house married couples and parents with children together as part of our commitment to the family values that are so much a part of American life. Our mission is to get men, women, children and families off the streets, out of the gov-

ernment welfare trap, and working toward independence and financial stability. We offer our residents alternatives to gang life and the drug culture, and provide options to dependence on food stamps and government bail-out programs.

Everyday, Wingard Home has things that are being done. We have constant needs from food for the pantry or personal care items for guest. Almost anything can be used here.

We accept donations of any variety. Anything that can be used to help someone set up house once they get back on their feet is always needed. We accept clothing donations as well.

We always have projects going on around the ministry and will gladly accept volunteers. So much is going on here, and you can help in so many ways. Even if it's coming by to help cook dinner, we greatly appreciate it!

### There are hundreds of homeless youth in the Pensacola area. This group is giving them a voice

The Youth Action Board of Northwest Florida is a subcommittee of Opening Doors Northwest Florida dedicated to breaking cycles of youth homelessness through support, resources and mentoring. The subcommittee was established in May and has a board of 18- to 24-year-olds who were nominated to join and who are committed to making the community they live in a better place. According to Opening Doors, 823 homeless youth used the organization's resources between 2020 and 2021. Of

those, 457, or 55.5%, are female and 519, or 63%, are Black. During this time, there were 117 unaccompanied youth but only 20 available beds. Opening Doors wanted to provide a safe space for homeless, unaccompanied, parenting and pregnant youth of any age and felt it was important to give a voice to a subpopulation that many are not exposed to, organization officials said. Opening Doors, with us putting our ears to the ground, The board will help identify the needs of the homeless youth community and create projects and programs to

address them, provide resources and partner with key stakeholders in the community to run those programs. Some ideas include workshops about finances, building a credit, job interview skills, resume building and more. Development) or the Department of Children and Families, and then we look around in our community and we see that there is an issue with youth homelessness,” said Martika Baker, grant administrator for Opening Doors

### CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 WHAT THE HOMELESS NEED

provision in her proposal for the 2023 executive budget: one that would make it possible for empty hotels, bankrupted by the pandemic, to be converted to supportive housing, with mental health and substance use services on site. But neither the state Senate nor Assembly included this in their version of the budget. This key provision must be included in the final result.

Hotel conversions are much cheaper and faster than building new affordable housing units from the ground up. Hotels already have the plumbing and other infrastructure required to turn empty rooms into viable, dignified Single Room Occupancies (another housing solution that Adams has called for). This is the clear answer to our supportive housing crisis, and the key to making the subway safety plan a suc-

cess. Right now, the alternative — moving people off the streets and subways into congregate shelters — is not a real solution.



## 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— Joe Rogan Slammed Over 'Repulsive' Proposal To 'Just Go Shoot' Homeless People

“Popular podcast host Joe Rogan is being blasted after suggesting someone should “just go shoot” people among Los Angeles’ homeless population.

Rogan, during a July 14 episode of “The Joe Rogan Experience,” chatted with comedian Tom Segura over cigars about the city’s unhoused population.

Segura told Rogan he’d be arrested if he moved the be-

longings of person living on the street, referring to the items as “protected property.”. “But they wouldn’t arrest you if you shot somebody. Maybe you should just go shoot the homeless people,” Rogan replied.

Theo Henderson, an advocate for unhoused people, told Variety that he worried whether the “repulsive” remarks would spark violence against people who appear to be homeless.

“It’s infuriating because it’s not

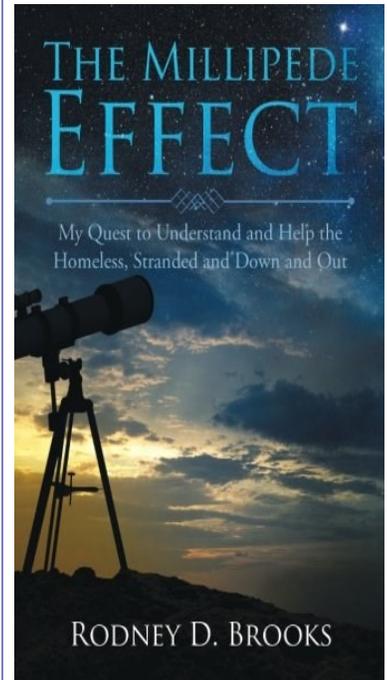
only out of touch, but the reality is that unhoused people are targeted by housed people,” Henderson said. “ke your ideas,” Segura said. “To advocate trying to shoot at unhoused people or just giving these dog whistles to people that do not see unhoused people as human beings — I can’t believe you’d advocate for it.”.

### HOW A FEMALE VETERAN IN ST. LOUIS BECAME ONE OF THE ‘HIDDEN HOMELESS’—BY TONY MESSENGER

When most residents think of the homeless they think of people on the streets, living in tents, walking downtown asking for change, or flying a sign near a highway intersection. But there’s a whole lot of homeless people like her who never show up in the statistics — the “hidden homeless,” she calls them. Patricia Tina Buskuehl is a 61-year-old Army veteran. She

grew up in Ferguson. Since her long-ago military service — she was honorably discharged in 1980 — Buskuehl has bounced among various places. She survives on military disability payments and suffers from mental illness, which mostly goes untreated these days. When she can afford it, she stays in hotels, finding deals and moving around a lot. She likes to be

near her storage unit in Ballwin, where she keeps her paperwork and other possessions. At least a couple of nights a month, she likes to stay in a nice place. It makes her feel human. For veterans, particularly those with post-traumatic stress disorder or other mental health issues, being homeless is not an uncommon situation, even when some have disability income



**HOMELESS**  
Give them a hand  
not the boot



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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 2022 and be exceptional stewards of Love!



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