



BROTHERS BROOKS
VISION 2 MISSION LLC

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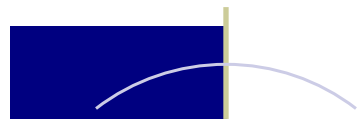


Special points of interest:

- **Coronavirus Exposes the Inextricable Connection Between Housing and Health**
- **Fact-check: Are homeless people immune to the coronavirus?**
- **Word on the Street**

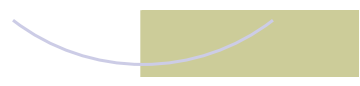
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WE CARE NEWS!!!

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



CORONAVIRUS EXPOSES THE INEXTRICABLE CONNECTION BETWEEN HOUSING AND HEALTH



We have heard for too long that there is no true solution to homelessness, with excuse after excuse on why we just can't do it. Well, guess what? During this pandemic — in many places — homelessness reforms that were long deemed implausible are happening, if only temporarily.

Over the last two months, cities have been showing just what it takes to expand capacity and safely house the homeless.

Winter shelters have remained opened, public property has been converted to shelters, housing navigation teams have expanded, more public-private partnerships have been estab-

lished, hygiene and sanitation services have increased, and eviction moratoriums have been put into place. It is fitting that such an all-hands-on-deck response would come during a global pandemic, especially as Covid-19 can spread rapidly when people live in close quarters in shelters or on the streets. But for so many people sleeping rough on the streets of America, they face a crisis every day.

We need to explore which of these actions have been effective so we can make progress on permanent solutions to homelessness. This crisis has exposed the inextricable relationship between housing and health, and that connection will remain important long after lockdowns lift. First and foremost, racial equity can no longer be optional: It must be an imperative. Covid-19 shines an even brighter light on the dispar-

ities in health and medical care for African Americans. Prior to the pandemic, communities of color were disproportionately represented in the homeless population. African Americans are 13% of the population, but represent more than 40% of the homeless, and America's Latinx population represents 22% of the homeless versus 18% of the country. None of this information is new, and neither is institutional and structural racism. Historically, housing has been riddled with remnants of redlining, racialized covenants, displacements and predatory inclusion. For policymakers to equitably assist individuals and families experiencing homelessness, embedding racial equity into housing policy cannot be seen as optional.

Written by Brooks Rainwater and Lauren Lowery

FACT-CHECK: ARE HOMELESS PEOPLE IMMUNE TO THE CORONAVIRUS?

“Amid the coronavirus crisis, there has been much talk about immunity, including how long those who have had COVID-19 may be immune from getting it again.

But what if there was a particular group of people who had natural immunity to the virus?

If you go to Facebook, you might believe it is true. Here is one post, from April 21, 2020, that appears to have originated in California. “Homeless line the streets in Cali, no bathing, washing hands, showering, clean clothes, little medical attention, no sanitizers, yet they aren't piling up dead on the

side of the street like logs,” the post said. “How are they so immune?” It includes a photo of an encampment, where dozens of homeless people are living in close quarters. Among the comments on the post: “That's been on my mind this whole time, CONTINUED ON PG 2



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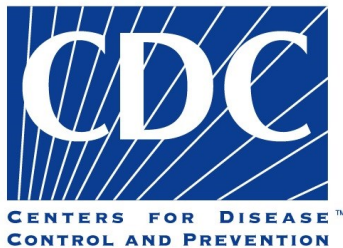
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SPOT LIGHT— WAINSCOTT HALL CRISIS SHELTER

Wainscott Hall Crisis Shelter

Our Mission

Empowering the homeless to take ownership of their path home.

Our Vision

To end homelessness, creating a better quality of life and community for future generations.

Our Purpose

To provide safe shelter, support services and an avenue to self-sufficiency for

the homeless in our community.

Our Values

Treat all with dignity, offer support and opportunity, practice responsible stewardship and achieve results through competence and creativity.

Every day we receive calls from desperate people in dire circumstances. Whether it is being evicted, sleeping in their car, or already on the street, the loneliness and pain is the same. The staff at CCHC understands these situations and works to pro-

vide a supportive atmosphere where accountability and compassion go hand in hand. Residents are encouraged to gain additional skills, required to save money, and map out a plan for their future. We partner with many other agencies and organizations to provide a broad base of services to effectively meet the needs of our clients. Wainscott Hall is much more than a shelter, it is a place of hope for our entire community.

Interim Considerations for Health Departments for (COVID-19) Testing in Homeless Shelters and Encampments

Consistent with CDC’s recommendations, individuals with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 should be referred to a healthcare provider for evaluation and possible testing. One strategy to identify people with symptoms is to conduct symptom screening during standard shelter and outreach practices. However, because screening cannot identify individuals with COVID-19 who may be

asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic, this strategy alone cannot prevent all individuals with COVID-19 from entering homeless service provider sites. Screenings should be conducted safely and respectfully and in accordance with any applicable privacy laws and regulations. Clients, staff, or volunteers who have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 should wear

a cloth face covering, if able. Staff and volunteers with symptoms should be advised to go or stay home. Clients with symptoms should be directed to stay in a pre-designated area, separated from other shelter clients and ideally in individual rooms.

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if it’s so contagious and deadly then why aren’t they dropping like crazy?” And: “Yup and people still believe this is about a virus.” The post was flagged as part of Facebook’s efforts to combat false news and misinformation on its News Feed. So, that prompted us to dive in. Are the homeless somehow immune from the coronavirus? In a word: No.

Homeless populations more susceptible to virus. Homelessness is a big problem across the country. In 2018, there were more than 552,000 people experiencing homelessness on a single night in America, according to the National Alliance to End Homelessness. In California alone, where this post originated, estimates show there are nearly 130,000

homeless people. People experiencing homelessness are also more likely to have pre-existing health conditions, which also makes them higher risk, according to the CDC.



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 — Trump administration moves to repeal transgender protections in homeless shelters

The Department of Housing and Urban Development plans to move forward with a measure that would permit federally funded homeless shelters to house transgender clients according to their sex assigned at birth.

The HUD proposal would reverse a 2016 measure implemented under the Obama administration that built on

provisions enacted four years earlier. The 2012 Equal Access Rule mandated that shelters are "open to all eligible individuals and families regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status," and the administration issued further guidance clarifying that the rule barred shelters from denying access to trans people in accordance with their

gender identity. HUD announced Wednesday that it intends to effectively strike the 2016 trans-inclusive guidelines. When it comes to housing transgender people in single-sex or sex-segregated shelters, HUD Secretary Ben Carson said in a statement that the Obama administration's guidelines "mandate a single approach that overrides local law and concerns."

COVID-19 ON THE FRONTLINE OF HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION SERVICES

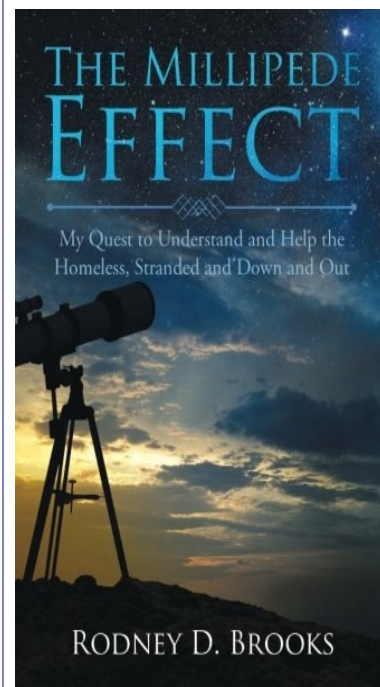
My name is Andrea, and I work with Galway Simon Community as a Services Manager. I work closely with our team and clients, managing a number of our services including the Bridge Resource Centre in Ballinasloe, County Community Support Service, Community Detox Programme and our Community Housing Services.

The ongoing current Covid-19 pandemic is an extremely worrying and challenging time for all of us. Prior to this, we were already stretched due to the large volume of people in need of our services in the County. We were even operating a waiting list, which is something I would never want to do.

Our Homelessness Preven-

tion Teams are already stretched trying to keep people in their own homes, but with economic difficulties looming, we are hugely concerned about even more challenges ahead.

This is our time to stand together, and to look out for each other. If you can manage it in the current circumstances, please consider supporting Galway Simon with a donation.



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 2018 and be exceptional stewards of Love!



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