



**BROTHERS BROOKS**  
VISION 2 MISSION LLC

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**Special points of interest:**

- **The Latest Data Shows California is America's Most Homeless State**
- **Homelessness increasing for most of Mountain West**
- **Word on the Street**

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# WE CARE NEWS!!!

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

## The Latest Data Shows California is America's Most Homeless State

The latest definitive census of the nation's homeless people affirms a dark truth: America's homelessness is, to a substantial and growing degree, California's homelessness. Between 2020 and 2022, California's homeless population expanded more than any other state's, growing by nearly 10,000 souls to over 171,000. During a period when the U.S. homeless population increased only slightly, California's grew some 20 times faster. For the third consecutive biennial census by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, California accounted for the entire national increase in homelessness and more. What would it take to make these disturbing numbers go in the right direction for a change? Not as much as one might think based on California's persistent, nation-beating failure to do so. A recent attempt to answer the question by the Corporation for Supportive Housing concluded that California could house all its homeless people with less than 3% of its

budget.

It's not as if this problem has never been solved, after all — or isn't being effectively addressed in other places right now. In fact, with recent decreases in the homeless populations of New York and Hawaii, previously the only two states with higher per capita homelessness, California claimed the dubious distinction of the nation's highest homelessness rate, amounting to more than one of every 230 residents. Over the last 15 years, while national homelessness declined 10%, California's grew over 20%. California also remains worse than every other state at sheltering its unhoused people, with more than two-thirds sleeping outdoors. That's roughly the reverse of the nationwide homeless population, a majority of which is sheltered. As HUD's recently released report on the so-called point-in-time count notes, California is home to "more than nine times the number of unsheltered people in the state with the next highest number,

Washington." Only eight other states fail to shelter a majority of their homeless people, while three states, including New York, shelter over 95%.

The report also shows that California has the most homelessness nationwide in a major urban area, Los Angeles; the most in a midsize metropolitan area, Sonoma County; and the most in a largely suburban area, Orange County. And the state has three of the five major metropolitan areas with the most unsheltered homeless populations in the country: the San Jose, Oakland and Sacramento regions, all of which leave more than 70% of their homeless people to sleep in cars, tents, parks and other outdoor places.



## HOMELESSNESS INCREASING FOR MOST OF MOUNTAIN WEST

New federal data shows that homelessness is increasing — slightly — in most Mountain West states.

The 2022 Annual Homelessness Assessment Report is based on a survey

conducted on a single night. The data, released this month by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, provides a snapshot of homelessness. It found that roughly 582,500 people were experiencing homelessness, the research offers

lessness, and 60% of them were staying in a shelter versus the street.

In our region, Colorado had the highest estimate of homelessness — 10,397 people. Wyoming had the

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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!

### They Were Promised an End to Homelessness. Now They Face Eviction.

NEW YORK — Dwayne Seifforth spent years struggling with homelessness, including four sleeping on New York City streets and one living in a Bronx shelter with his young daughter. Then in spring 2020, a city caseworker presented Seifforth with a solution: a vacant apartment he could afford using a special city voucher.

The 11-story building on 133rd Street in Harlem, with its newly finished rooms, balconies and Manhattan views, drew a stark

contrast with the shelter, where Seifforth, 41, and his daughter, D’Kota-Holidae Seifforth, 9, said they encountered the biggest rats and cockroaches they had ever seen.

It was a chance for Seifforth, who had been living off food stamps and the wages he earned working part time for the Parks Department, to give D’Kota a real home.

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The family moved in. Soon, most of the building’s 46 units were

were filled with families with similar stories. Children settled in to nearby schools. Seifforth, 41, got a full-time job delivering packages for Amazon. What the families did not know was that the building was already mired in a conflict that would soon leave them on the brink of homelessness again. Seifforth now lives every day worrying about whether a marshal will throw him and his daughter out

### CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 HOMELESSNESS INCREASING FOR MOST OF MOUNTAIN

the lowest estimate – 648 people.

Over the last two years, the number of people experiencing homelessness nationally increased by less than 1%, the report said. Twenty-seven states had increases.

In both Colorado and Wyoming, homelessness rose by more than 5%. In Utah, it increased by more than 13%. New Mexico is an outlier – its 23% decrease was the second

largest nationally.

Nate Jennings, the Housing Re-Establishment Program Manager at Good Shepherd Center in New Mexico, said COVID aid helped them get their numbers down.

“There was a lot of money put into the rent moratoriums that allowed people to stay in their homes,” he said. “Without that, there would have been a drastic increase because people wouldn’t be

able to afford rents without moratoriums and protections for these people, they would have been out on the street.”



## 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— Albuquerque Sued by ACLU for Hounding, Harassing Homeless

TALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — The American Civil Liberties Union of New Mexico and others are suing the city of Albuquerque to stop officials in the state's largest city from destroying homeless encampments and jailing and fining people who are living on the street. The lawsuit filed Monday accuses the city of violating the civil rights of what advocates describe as Albuquerque's most vulnerable population. Lawyers for the

ACLU, the New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty and a group of homeless plaintiffs contend that Albuquerque has initiated a campaign in which city personnel is hounding and harassing the homeless.

The complaint blames the city's own policies for causing a housing shortage, along with escalating home prices that have put ownership out of reach and have resulted in more pressure on the rental market.

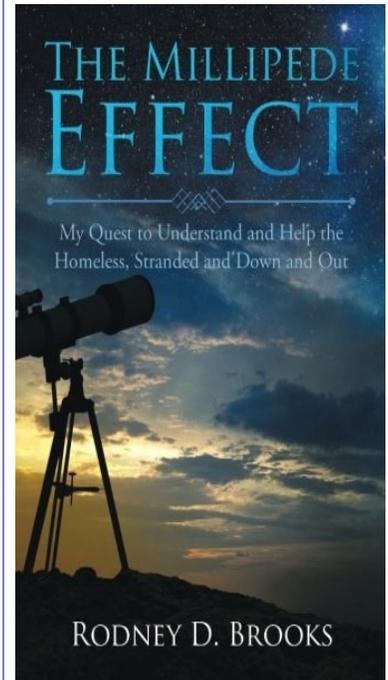
They also point to the trend of institutional investors buying single-family homes and renting them at sky-high rates. "The lack of affordable housing and adequately paid employment in Albuquerque has not only caused precariously housed individuals and families to lose their housing, but it has also presented a barrier for currently unhoused people to exit homelessness," the lawsuit states.

### LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCE LEADS WOMAN TO OFFER FREE HAIRCUTS TO HOMELESS

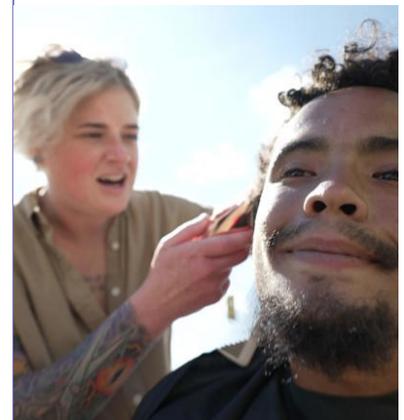
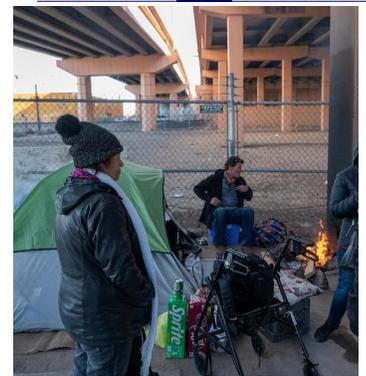
Minneapolis woman became inspired by a life-changing haircut she got when she was younger, and found a way to help others in her community look their best — even if they couldn't afford it. Katie Stellar said growing up, her mother would cut her hair since she was one of six children. The home haircuts weren't the most stylish. "My mom was awful and I have pictures to prove it. But I never really had any desire to do anything with my

hair," she said. That was until Stellar was diagnosed with an autoimmune disease when she was 11 years old, which took a toll on both her body and her hair. She began losing her hair and eyelashes. "For Stellar, the experience was life-changing. She credited the hair stylist for making her feel comfortable and safe throughout the appointment. The experience lit a fire for Stellar. She herself became a hair stylist, but one with a mission — to make oth-

ers feel the way she felt that day. She opened a salon, which led to the start of the Red Chair Project. Stellar said she wanted to offer haircuts to anyone who asked, as she's seen people in her community of downtown Minneapolis struggle with homelessness. Throughout Minneapolis, Stellar's Red Chair Project has inspired more stylists with more chairs to give more free haircuts. She said she's happy seeing other people carrying on the work she started.



**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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