



**BROTHERS BROOKS**  
VISION 2 MISSION LLC

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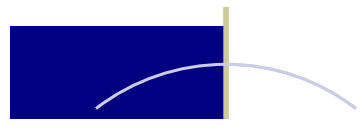


**Special points of interest:**

- **How The U.S. Criminalizes Homelessness**
- **Rep. Nancy Mace introduces legislation to combat veteran homelessness through tiny homes**
- **Word on the Street**

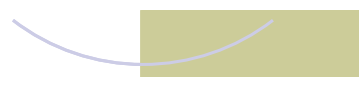
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# WE CARE NEWS!!!

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



## HOW THE U.S. CRIMINALIZES HOMELESSNESS



In the decade that Luke White has been homeless, he’s received numerous tickets for simply existing in public spaces.

“We’re just not welcome anywhere,” White told The Texas Tribune. “I can’t tell you how many tickets I have gotten . . . [for] sitting, lying, just the little stupid stuff I have on my record.”

White lives in Austin, Texas, where authorities have cleared several encampments in recent months following a public camping ban that voters reinstated this year. It mirrors a new Texas law that criminalizes public camping—and bans cities from adopting policies that prohibit or discourage the

enforcement of any public camping ban.

People who don’t comply with the law can be ticketed, arrested, and fined up to \$500. But Austin doesn’t have nearly enough housing or shelter space for the estimated 3,160 residents experiencing homelessness. Nevertheless, local authorities have forced unhoused people to disperse. Some have relocated to woods around Austin, where they are far removed from resources and services like food, health care, and sanitation.

The Texas law criminalizes people for trying to survive when there are no other options available—it does nothing to address homelessness. But Texas is not alone in adopting such measures.

Laws that bar people experiencing homelessness from sitting, sleeping, or resting in public spaces are prevalent across the country. Some laws prohibit people from living in vehicles. Other laws turn loitering, asking for money, and even sharing food with

people into offenses punishable by fines or arrest. In many cities, public restrooms are not available overnight—or at all—yet cities prohibit public urination and defecation. All these policy choices discriminate against unhoused people as authorities eject them from public spaces; confiscate and destroy their property; and segregate them in often unsanitary and inhumane mass shelters and jails—practices that threaten their health and well-being and, ultimately, their lives.

Those experiencing homelessness are disproportionately people of color, the result of centuries of discrimination in housing, education, employment, health care, and the criminal legal system.

By Nazish Dholakia, Senior Writer, Vera Institute of Justice

### REP. NANCY MACE INTRODUCES LEGISLATION TO COMBAT VETERAN HOMELESSNESS THROUGH TINY HOMES

Representatives Nancy Mace (R-SC 01) and Derek Kilmer (D-WA 06) on Wednesday announced bipartisan legislation to combat veteran homelessness through the construction of

tiny homes. The Tiny Homes for Homeless Veterans Act was introduced to the U.S. House of Representatives on December 16 and is currently sitting with the House Subcommittee on Veterans’ Affairs, of which

Mace is a member. The bill would expand on the VA’s existing Grant and Per Diem (GDP) program by creating a pilot program that provide recipients money to build “individualized and sustainable tiny homes in villages.”



## SPOT LIGHT— L.O.V.E.'S KITCHEN



L.O.V.E.'S Kitchen  
801 18th Ave S, Meridian, MS  
39301  
(601) 693-1409

Judge Billy Neville founded LOVE'S Kitchen and charged that no person who entered the door for a meal would be refused based on his or her circumstances. He felt that even people who had jobs could have financial difficulties, such as medical expenses, which would limit their ability to purchase food between pay periods. It is on this premise that LOVE's Kitchen was built; to feed the hungry with no questions asked and no judgment passed. LOVE's Kitchen has been in operation since the 1980's and is supported by

businesses, churches and individuals in the community. Fannie Johnson, Executive Director states, "Our main mission is feeding those who are hungry; our ultimate goal is that they eat. Our second goal is to get them resources to be able to feed themselves. Over the years we have changed and adapted to the needs of our clients and put an increased emphasis on the outreach part of the program. We work diligently to not duplicate services of other nonprofits. There are several organizations we ask to come and work with us to meet the

needs of the people. Street2Feet, an organization devoted to helping the homeless, brings our clients in and helps them build resumes. They then help get interviews, jobs, and assist in getting them in their own homes. We noticed they needed access to MCC to pass GED and ASVAB tests, so we tutored them and provided transportation. We have around 1,000 volunteers a year and our volunteer opportunities aren't just focused on cooking and serving food. They help tutor, find relatives, and help make doctor appointments."

## Immediate, financial ways to help those experiencing homelessness this winter



LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — As temperatures drop outside and hundreds remain homeless across the state, warming centers and shelters are opening their doors.

But along with those immediate solutions, many longer term, financial resources are also available.

Aaron Reddin with nonprofit The Van helps fight homelessness by bringing the resources to the streets. And he's seen a change amid the pandemic adding, "We've seen a slight increase in

the number of unsheltered people across the city."

While The Van works to target more immediate needs and homelessness, (especially after the eviction moratorium ended last year) that helps with rental assistance.

One program from the Arkansas Department of Human Services. "So the Arkansas Rent Relief Program has been extended into 2022. There is still general rent relief funds available, and the program will continue so long as those funds are available,"

"Gavin Lesnick, the Deputy Chief of Communications for the Department added.

As of a few weeks ago, DHS still has about two thirds of the allocated rent relief funds remaining. And they welcome new applicants, just with some expected delay.

"We expect an application would take about 30 days," Lesnick added.

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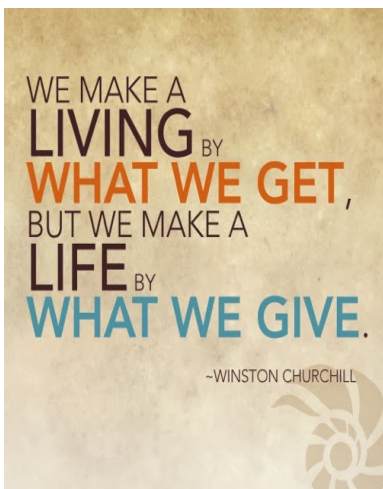
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The villages would be a key aspect of the program, as they would "include wrap-around supportive services for the veterans and their families to help get them back on their feet." The bill explicitly notes that services addressing the following be provided:

Case management services (pursuant to section 2022 of this title)

- Financial management
- Counseling for addiction issues
- Educational opportunities
- Anger management
- Career and employment resources

Mace said that the VA would be allowed to pick the locations in which the pilot villages would be built. She said that she would love Charleston to be selected as

one of those locations. Mace acknowledged that the bill is a long way from coming to fruition, noting that it still has to pass both the House and Senate.

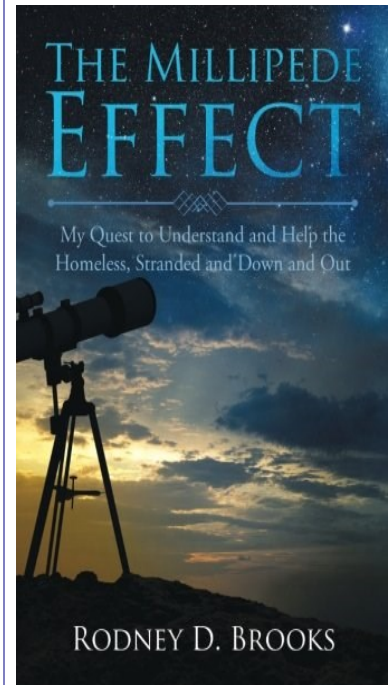


## THE MILLIPEDE EFFECT

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/>



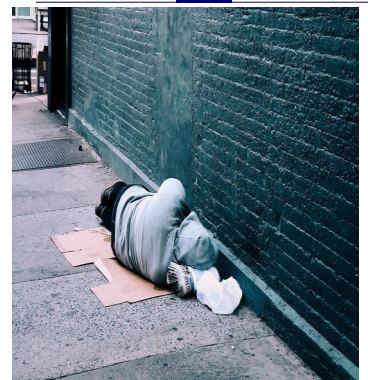
**HOMELESS**  
Give them a hand  
not the boot

**Word on The Street — Homelessness in the U.S.—Overview of Our Policy Proposal on Homelessness by Steve McIntosh**  
(view full proposal at <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/homelessness-us-steve-mcintosh>)

“The persistence of large numbers of homeless Americans is one of the signal policy failures of the past two generations.”<sup>1</sup> We are failing to care for our neediest people, and their continuing deprivation and despair stands as a testament to our national hypocrisy. Ending the epidemic of homelessness is therefore not only necessary to alleviate the suffering of the unhoused, it is also crucial to preserve America’s dwindling social solidarity

and basic sense of collective civic virtue. The social crisis we currently identify as “homelessness” thus encompasses a variety of distinctly different problems, each requiring its own carefully tailored solution. Our proposal accordingly focuses on the following five overlapping solutions: 1) Significantly increase affordable housing stock through federally sponsored “low regulation construction zones”; 2) Provide residential refuge and

asylum for severely mentally ill and severely addicted people; 3) Distinguish between people who are “temporarily unhoused,” “severely mentally ill,” and “chronically homeless,” in order to serve the specific needs of each group; 4) Strike a “grand bargain” between local communities and service resistant chronically homeless people; and 5) Implement “backpack funding” to honor the preferences of chronically homeless people.

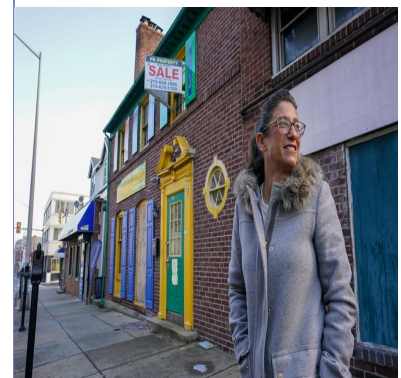


### HOMELESS ADVOCATE CREATING A SHELTER FROM THE GROUND UP IN UPPER DARBY—STEPHANIE SENA

Sena, 42, who’s in the process of moving from Queen Village to the Upper Darby area, hasn’t run a freestanding facility before, but she has extensive experience in issues of homelessness. She’s the founder of the Student-Run Emergency Housing Unit of Philadelphia, a nonprofit that works with college students to provide shelter in church basements for homeless people

during the cold months. No resistance What’s remarkable about the shelter Sena will be opening at the end of January is that so many people seem to be in favor of it. It took months, but Sena finally found a spot for her shelter within easy walking distance of the terminal. A former day-care center, the

two-story brick building with 4,000 square feet cost \$490,000, paid for by a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Delaware County will underwrite day-to-day activities at the shelter, along with help from HUD. Sena learned she won the grant to run the place in August.



**BROTHERS BROOKS  
VISION 2 MISSION LLC**

BBV2M LLC  
Meridian, MS 39305

601-701-8873  
bbv2mllc@gmail.com  
bbv2m-  
brothersbrooksvision2missionllc.com  
Facebook - BBV2MLLC  
Twitter - @bbv2mllc



*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!



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