



**BROTHERS BROOKS**  
VISION 2 MISSION LLC

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**Special points of interest:**

- **Housing is a Human Right: End Homelessness in America**
- **COVID-19 makes a difficult voting process for people who are homeless even harder**
- **Word on the Street**

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# WE CARE NEWS!!!

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



## HOUSING IS A HUMAN RIGHT: END HOMELESSNESS IN AMERICA



The National Homelessness Law Center is launching an election guide for the 2020 United States presidential race. The Election 2020 Guide to Housing seeks to promote the human right to housing as a major issue in the 2020 election.

The Law Center believes housing is a fundamental human right and that all candidates and officials should embrace this framework in order to create policies that guarantee this right for all Americans. The Guide provides information to advocates, voters, and candidates on homelessness as well as housing statistics for cities and states across

the U.S. It also includes tools, like a 2020 election events calendar, an overview of causes and solutions around housing and homelessness, social media guides, hashtags to follow our updates on the election, and more.

The Guide is an evolving project and is subject to change. Keep up with it by following us on Twitter and Instagram @NLCHPhomeless!

The Housing is a Human Right: End Homelessness in America document aims to contextualize the issue of housing as a human right. It provides statistics around housing and homelessness as well as an explanation of the leading causes of homelessness in the U.S. It also makes tangible policy recommendations, such as increasing access to affordable housing and shortening

homelessness by ending its criminalization, so that policymakers can demonstrate their commitment to recognizing housing as a human right.

In this way, the Housing is a Human Right: End Homelessness in America document serves as the starting point for advocacy leading up to the 2020 presidential election. Utilizing this information as a launch pad, ask the candidates, “Do you believe housing is a human right? What are your plans to end homelessness and create affordable housing in America?”



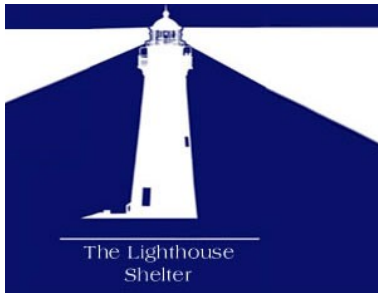
### COVID-19 MAKES A DIFFICULT VOTING PROCESS FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE HOMELESS EVEN HARDER BY MEGHAN MCCARTY CARINO

“Early voting is underway in a handful of states. The pandemic is making in-person polls risky while a postal service slow down could cause problems with mail-in ballots. Such challenges are magnified for a population that is hard to get to the polls in the best of

times: those experiencing homelessness. When you don’t have a permanent home, even the most basic steps of voting become daunting. “You’ve got to register. You’ve got to have an address,” said Jeff Page, a longtime activist and resi-

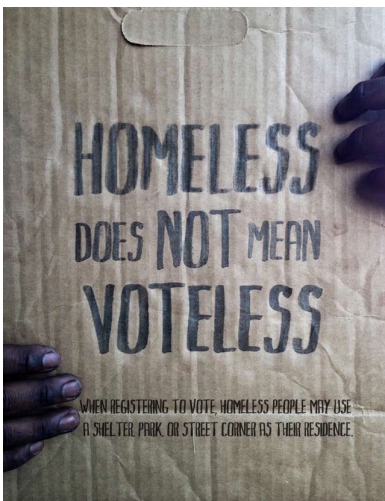
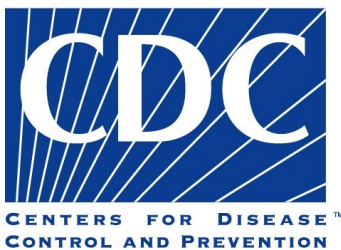
dent of Los Angeles’ Skid Row, home to the largest concentration of homeless people in the country. “Well, how can we vote if I’m homeless on the sidewalk?” People can use the address of a family member, a homeless service provider or

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## SPOT LIGHT— THE LIGHTHOUSE SHELTER

### The Lighthouse Shelter

The Lighthouse Shelter for the homeless in Marion, Illinois is a faith based organization dedicated to promoting the general welfare of the homeless in Southern Illinois.

The Shelter has three wings which ideally serve up to 60 men, women and families.

### Our Vision

The lighthouse shelter strives to break the cycle of homelessness by comprehensively addressing the

needs of those who are homeless in Williamson County and neighboring counties.

The Lighthouse Shelter will serve as a catalyst in fostering community and social services partnerships that will provide coordinated services to meet the basic needs of food, shelter, and health care.

We will provide case management services that include employment goals and permanent housing goals. We will assist all clients in

filing for food stamps and Medicaid benefits.

### HOW CAN I HELP?

In addition to monetary donations, The Lighthouse is always in need of volunteers.

The shelter offers many opportunities including clerical work, reception duties, housekeeping, janitorial, mentoring, tutoring children, laundry tasks, assisting with meal preparation and kitchen clean-up.

## CDC—Are people experiencing homelessness at risk of Covid-19

Because many people who are homeless are older adults or have underlying medical conditions they may also be at increased risk for severe illness than the general population. Health departments and healthcare facilities should be aware that people who are homeless are a particularly vulnerable group. If possible, identifying non-congregate settings where those

at increased risk can stay may help protect them from COVID-19. Many of the recommendations to prevent COVID-19 may be difficult for a person experiencing homelessness to do. Although it may not be possible to avoid certain crowded locations (such as shelters), people who are homeless should try to avoid other crowded public settings and public transportation. If

possible, they should use take-away options for food. As is true for everyone, they should maintain a distance of about 6 feet (two arms' length) from other people. They also should wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds as often as possible, and cover their coughs and sneezes.

### CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1—COVID-19 MAKES A DIFFICULT VOTING PROCESS FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE HOMELESS EVEN HARDER

even their physical location on the street to register, though it's difficult to get voter information or mail-in ballots this way. Still, Page said, some do make the effort to cast their vote. "A lot of people just want to be part of the process, because that's the first problem, that people that are making decisions, they don't have a clue as far as what life is like," Page said. But even in

states with less restrictive voting requirements like California, the pandemic is adding new challenges, said Nan Roman, president and CEO of the National Alliance to End Homelessness. "Homeless people often use libraries, or if they have phones, they use coffee shops and so forth, to access the internet," And they don't have that access now in a lot of

places, so just getting information about how to vote and what the issues are, it's been affected a lot by COVID." People may also encounter greater difficulty obtaining proper ID a necessity to vote in most states — because many government offices are operating with reduced hours and staff. Roman said efforts to get out the vote among the unhoused population can be resource-intensive at a time when many local governments are facing budget cuts.

## 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 — Legal Aid threatens to sue New York City over lack of internet access for homeless students

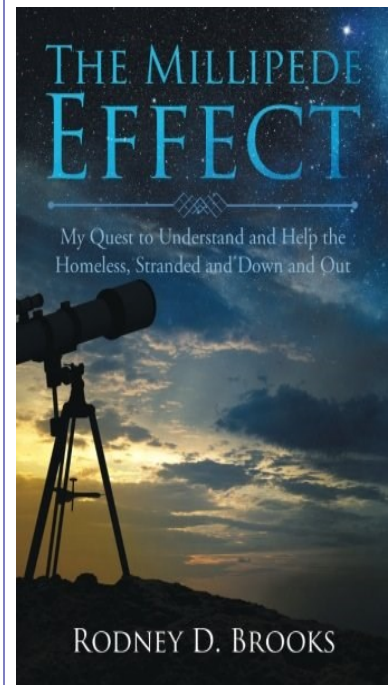
The Legal Aid Society is threatening to sue the de Blasio administration for failing to provide internet access to homeless children in shelters, effectively blocking their ability to participate in remote learning during Covid-19.

Legal Aid and the law firm Milbank, representing the Coalition for the Homeless, sent a demand letter on

Thursday to schools Chancellor Richard Carranza and Department of Homeless Services Administrator Joslyn Carter, calling on the city to remedy internet access problems at the Flatlands Family Residence in Brooklyn and other DHS facilities with school-age children.

“In light of the COVID-19

pandemic, internet access is not a luxury; it is a basic prerequisite to entering the ‘virtual classroom’ that has been necessitated by the virus,” the letter, shared with POLITICO, said. “By neglecting to ensure that homeless children can connect to the internet, the City is in violation of its constitutional obligation to provide a ‘sound basic education.’”



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



### ON THE FRONTLINE -FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS: FUNDAMENTAL PARTNERS IN ENDING HOMELESSNESS

My name is Andrea, and I Faith-based organizations serve as the backbone of the emergency shelter system in this country – operating at a minimum nearly 30 percent of emergency shelter beds for families and single adults at the national level. They play a critical role in delivering services to people in crisis and significantly fewer households experiencing homelessness

would be served and more would remain in crisis without them. Homelessness will not be ended without faith-based organizations.

To examine the unique contribution of faith-based organizations to homeless services and present the perspectives of faith-based organizations on the most pressing gaps in resources and efforts needed to end

homelessness, their role in local governance and systemic planning, and how a national shift to a Housing First philosophy has impacted their work, the National Alliance to End Homelessness examined housing inventory data and interviewed and/or surveyed over 160 faith-based organizations. Here is what was learned. Download here <http://endhomelessness.org/>



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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!



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