



**BROTHERS BROOKS**  
VISION 2 MISSION LLC

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**Special points of interest:**

- **Homeless Americans finally getting chance at COVID vaccine**
- **Two blocks from the Federal Reserve, a growing encampment of the homeless grips the economy’s most powerful person**
- **Word on the Street**

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# WE CARE NEWS!!!

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



## HOMELESS AMERICANS FINALLY GETTING CHANCE AT COVID VACCINE



Homeless Americans who have been left off priority lists for coronavirus vaccinations — or even bumped aside as states shifted eligibility to older age groups — are finally getting their shots as vaccine supplies increase.

While the U.S. government has only incomplete data on infections among homeless people, it’s clear that crowded, unsanitary conditions at shelters and underlying poor health increase the danger of COVID-19 infections, severe complications and death.

COVID-19 outbreaks have been documented at homeless shelters in cities such as Bos-

ton, San Francisco and Seattle. Vaccinating in vulnerable areas will be a key to achieving herd immunity, the goal of building a barrier of protected people to stop uncontrolled spread.

“It was important for me to protect myself and the health and welfare of others,” said Sidney Oliver, 39, who got her first dose of Moderna vaccine April 7 at the Seattle YWCA shelter where she sleeps.

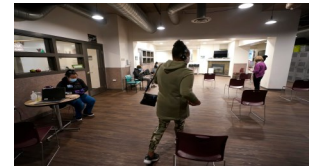
Wanona Thibodeaux-Lee, 43, has lived in several Seattle shelters while trying to get back on her feet, most recently at WHEEL, a 26-bed women’s shelter in a church basement. On April 5, she received the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

“I feel like I can move around without anyone getting me sick,” she said. “It’s good to know that I don’t have to go back for a second one.” The single-shot vaccine is pre-

ferred by many clinics who serve homeless people and by homeless people themselves, said Bobby Watts, CEO of the National Health Care for the Homeless Council.

Vaccinating homeless people is good for the health of everyone, said Los Angeles Deputy Mayor Jose “Che” Ramirez.

“We’re all in it together. The more shots in arms the better,” Ramirez said. “The more folks who are vaccinated, the stronger we are in building herd immunity and the faster we can reopen our city and engage with each other like we were before.”



By Associated Press  
April 15, 2021

## TWO BLOCKS FROM THE FEDERAL RESERVE, A GROWING ENCAMPMENT OF THE HOMELESS GRIPS THE ECONOMY’S MOST POWERFUL PERSON

As he drove past the intersection of 21st and E streets in Northwest Washington, a 68-year-old man peered through the window, struck by an encampment of homeless people here that grew from 10 tents to 20 in the past year. Then 30. Now 40 The people living in those

tents had no idea that their burgeoning village kept this man, Federal Reserve Chair Jerome H. Powell, up at night, or that he kept thinking about them as he drove two blocks south to his office. Powell doesn’t know their names or backstories, either. But what he saw was clear. A visceral reminder of

the uneven economic recovery. Right there in the Fed’s shadow.

It’s in these brief interludes — when the most powerful person in the economy passes some of the most powerless — that Powell grapples with one of the most vexing

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**OUR MISSION**

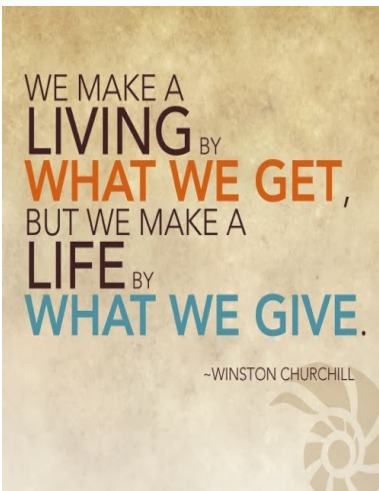
**Our mission is to serve the poor and alleviate poverty in the greater Charleston region with the hope and strength of the gospel.**

**Holy City Missions**

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**SPOT LIGHT— HOLY CITY MISSIONS**

Welcome to Holy City Missions! We are a Christian non-profit working to improve the lives of our impoverished neighbors. We believe that every person matters to God and deserves access to food, shelter, clothing, and the ability to be clean. We serve the people of the greater Charleston region and are centrally located in North Charleston, SC. Our current poverty ministries include the Food Bank & Clothes Closet, To Go Soup Kitchen, Community

Give, and North Charleston's only emergency cold weather shelter – the Winter Warming Shelter.

**OUR MISSION**

Our mission is to serve the poor and alleviate poverty in the greater Charleston region with the hope and strength of the gospel.

**OUR GOAL**

Our goal is to reduce the immediate affects of poverty and to equip our neighbors to find sustainable means of support.

The Envision! campaign is a joint effort of Aldersgate United Methodist Church and Holy City Missions. Aldersgate UMC will be own and maintain the property related to the future Missions Campus. Holy City Missions will steward and operate the outreach program. The two will function in tandem for the sake of expanding mission, reach, and community impact.

**HUD: Growth Of Homelessness During 2020 Was 'Devastating,' Even Before The Pandemic**

The nation's homeless population grew last year for the fourth year in a row. On a single night in January 2020, there were more than 580,000 individuals who were homeless in the United States, a 2% increase from the year before. The numbers, released by the Department of Housing and Urban Development Thursday, do not reflect the impact of the pandemic. "And we know the pandemic has only

made the homelessness crisis worse," HUD Secretary Marcia Fudge said in a video message accompanying the report. She called the numbers "devastating" and said the nation has a "moral responsibility to end homelessness." Among the report's more sobering findings: homelessness among veterans and families did not improve for the first time in many years.

Also, more than 106,000 children were homeless during the once-a-year count, conducted in most communities across the nation. While the majority of homeless children were in shelters or transitional housing, almost 11,000 were living outside. As has been the case for years, a disproportionate share of those experiencing homelessness were Black — about 39% of the total.

**TWO BLOCKS FROM THE FEDERAL RESERVE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

Continued from page 1 economic conundrums facing the central bank, and the country, 14 months into the coronavirus crisis. How Biden stimulus bill will target homelessness Powell referenced the tent city three times in the span of seven days, including in a "60 Minutes" interview and on a panel hosted by the International Monetary Fund. During a talk

with the Economic Club of Washington D.C. on Wednesday, Powell mentioned the encampment again, saying the homeless should be part of any assessment of the economy's strength. "They need to be in the room with us as we make our decisions," Powell \$19 million in stimulus going to fight D.C. homelessness Powell moved fast. On

March 3, 2020, the Fed announced an emergency interest rate cut, then slashed rates to zero twelve days later. By the end of the month, the Fed outlined a sprawling set of programs to rescue the financial system.

By Rachel Siegel



## 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 — The Unanswerable Question of the Homeless and the Commanding Officer Trying to Make a Difference

When CAPT. ED RAMIREZ OF THE Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's West Hollywood Station met with the City Council for an update on public safety, the intoxicating congratulatory smiles over the drop in major crime quickly changed to the sobering reality of the human crisis facing most American communities. Homeless-

ness and the associated issues. It is a personal issue with Ramirez, a man with three decades in the Sheriff's Department with a strong belief in community involvement. He serves as a board member for the non-profit Shelter Partnership, a homeless support organization. "I'm happy to think outside, even remove, the box if it's not immoral, ille-

gal or going to land me on the front page. Let's try it," said Ramirez in outlining his approach to involvement in a community when he became the new commanding officer of the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station two years ago. "It is an ongoing challenge balancing "quality of life for people who live, work and play in West Hollywood along with the civil rights of the homeless.

### SHE WORKS IN A HOMELESS SHELTER, AND SHE LIVES IN ONE, TOO

At the end of a 16-hour double shift at a homeless shelter in Queens, Amber Drummond, a security guard, was desperate to relax. But Ms. Drummond said she shared a room with a woman who was messy and constantly on her phone.

The room is in a Radisson Hotel. The hotel, in Queens, is another homeless shelter,

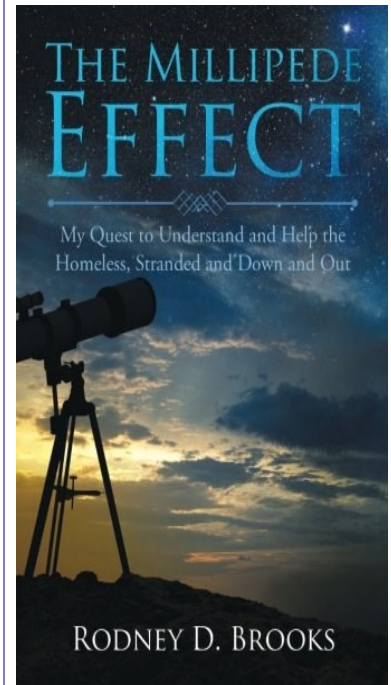
where Ms. Drummond lives. She has lived in four different shelters since 2019, often working two jobs, while spending her days off searching for an apartment she can afford. She has looked at some 30 places across the city but said landlords had rejected her applications.

"Why am I still failing?" said Ms. Drummond, who is

paid \$16.50 an hour.

Ms. Drummond's story is not unique. Many workers who tend to New York City's most vulnerable residents are themselves in precarious economic situations. Some take on multiple jobs, work staggering amounts of overtime and still struggle to find their own homes.

By The New York Times



**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**  
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Founder of Brothers Brooks  
Vision 2 Mission LLC.**  
**(BBV2M LLC)**