



**BROTHERS BROOKS**  
VISION 2 MISSION LLC

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**Special points of interest:**

- **Coronavirus—Homeless among the most vulnerable to coronavirus, experts say**
- **The homeless can't stay home: What does coronavirus social distancing mean for them?**
- **Word on the Street**

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# WE CARE NEWS!!!

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



## CORONAVIRUS—HOMELESS AMONG THE MOST VULNERABLE TO CORONAVIRUS, EXPERTS SAY



Homeless communities from coast to coast are at a greater risk of being infected with the coronavirus than the general population, experts say.

Almost 200,000 people are counted as homeless in the United States, and although health officials have yet to find any evidence of coronavirus among them, the population is considered extremely vulnerable and has suffered in the past from other disease outbreaks.

A White House report says conditions among the homeless are deteriorating in a number of states, including in Washington, California and Oregon, where rising housing costs have caused serious income ine-

quality. Officials in King County, Wash., the location of the first coronavirus-related deaths, have bought a motel and installed a dozen modular units where infected homeless people can recover.

"They are double risk. One is a risk to themselves, the other is a risk to society," Chunhuei Chi, director of the Center for Global Health at Oregon State University in Corvallis, told The Associated Press.

"This should be treated as an emergency policy, not as a permanent solution to homelessness, but more of framing it as a solution for containing the spread," Chi said. "If they get this particular virus, there's a high degree of probability it's going to impact them more severely than it does the general population, with a higher mortality," said Jimmy Jones, executive director of the agency Community

Action. Los Angeles County's health department sent teams to over 300 homeless facilities to make sure people were "washing their hands and not sharing food or utensils," according to department director Barbara Ferrer, who said it's almost "impossible" for them to avoid an outbreak with such bleak living conditions.

San Francisco city officials postponed an event Thursday serving 1,000 homeless people "because they are older as a group and typically have multiple chronic medical conditions."

Jason Rantz, a Seattle radio host, said health officials need to make homeless communities a priority in containing the coronavirus.

By Caleb Parke | Fox New

## THE HOMELESS CAN'T STAY HOME: WHAT DOES CORONAVIRUS SOCIAL DISTANCING MEAN FOR THEM?

"New York Daily News Stay home" is the watchword of the current pandemic caused by COVID-19, the novel coronavirus. Kids are not in school, adults are telecommuting, and we are told to make "social distancing" part of daily life. We're told the mayor is even mull-

ing a "shelter in place" order for New York. These are great strategies to flatten the curve, but they presume that everyone has a choice in the matter. Don't we have a responsibility to help our homeless neighbors access basic necessities like food and clothing while protecting their health and mini-

mizing community spread? I work for a nonprofit called New York City Relief. Since 1989, we have been providing hot meals, new socks, hygiene supplies, and connecting people to housing applications, SNAP benefits, and other resources.

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# 1st

**and Largest Family Homeless Shelter in San Francisco**

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**“One person can make a difference, and everyone should try.”**  
 — John F. Kennedy



## SPOT LIGHT— RAPHAEL HOUSE

### MISSION

The mission of Raphael House is to help low-income families and families experiencing homelessness strengthen family bonds by achieving stable housing and financial independence. Since 1971, Raphael House has been at the forefront of providing homeless and low-income families in the San Francisco Bay Area the personalized family-centered solutions they need to build brighter futures. Raphael House is a 100% privately funded and community-

supported organization. Our success rate is unmatched: more than 85% of all Raphael House families go on to achieve long-term housing and financial stability.

### PHILOSOPHY

At Raphael House, we see homelessness as a temporary state that doesn't define a person. We understand that homelessness can result from unexpected circumstances, whether economic, health-related, or because of a breakdown in family structure. We provide fami-

lies an opportunity to take ownership of their futures and improve the quality of their lives through a nurturing and supportive process that emphasizes the importance of strong families and personal dignity.

### OUR VALUES

- Success
- Dignity
- Diversity
- Partnership

## HUD awards funding for group fighting housing discrimination

A New Hampshire legal organization is getting \$300,000 to fight housing discrimination in the state, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development announced.

It awarded the money to New Hampshire Legal Assistance. The funding is part of \$40 million in grants being awarded nationwide. The HUD grants come from the department's Fair Housing Initiatives Program and the Fair

Housing Assistance Program. HUD's Fair Housing Initiatives Program grants support fair housing enforcement, and education and outreach activities.

“Every person should have a fair chance to live in a community of opportunity, free from discrimination,” said David Tille, HUD New England Regional Administrator. “Working closely

with New Hampshire Legal Assistance, the investments we make today are a strong step forward to put an end to housing discrimination in New Hampshire.”



### CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1—THE HOMELESS CAN'T STAY HOME: WHAT DOES CORONAVIRUS SOCIAL DISTANCING MEAN FOR THEM?

Each person we serve has intrinsic value. They are not freeloaders. They are survivors. They live each day with resolve and strength that most of us could not imagine. During this pandemic, we must remember that for some people, social distancing is not an option. More than 58,000 men, women and children slept in a Department of Homeless Services shelter last night.

That doesn't include Penn Station, Port Authority, Grand Central, the subways and sidewalks.

Right now, a person who is homeless and experiences the symptoms of the novel coronavirus is either staying in a shelter or on the street or being sent to the closest emergency room or urgent care because we can't send them home

We can't tell them to self-quarantine. And with coffee shops and restaurants closing their doors, with the exception of take-out food service, their options for escaping the elements are few and far between.

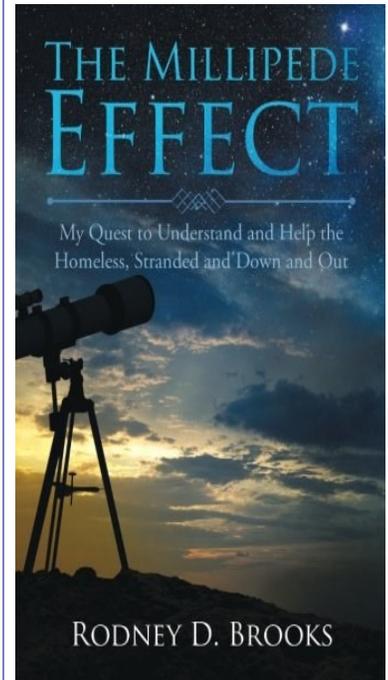


## THE MILLIPEDE EFFECT

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 — New Law would allow Sacramento to Clear Camps

Sacramento may soon begin clearing homeless camps from sections of riverfront levees, several downtown streets and outside public facilities in what top city officials describe as an effort to protect critical infrastructure and prevent wildfires and catastrophic floods.

A federal court ruling in the controversial Martin v. Boi-

se case in September 2018 barred police in western states from issuing citations to homeless people sleeping in public places unless a shelter bed is available. However, Sacramento officials say a footnote submitted by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit allows them to bar campers from certain places in order to "protect the pub-

lic health, safety and welfare," according to a city staff report. The City Council is now scheduled to vote on an ordinance Tuesday that would allow the city to prohibit people from camping within 25 feet of the riverfront levees, hospitals, bridges, fire and police stations, pump stations and other public facilities, according to the city staff report.



### HOMETOWN HERO: LIFE AND LEGACY OF BOBBY HUNTON

They say you can tell the most about a person by the way they treat another. If someone were to be an example of that ... it would Bobby Hunton, a community leader, a devoted husband and brother, and a true example of kindness.

Hunton is also someone who left this world way too soon.

Identifying the needs in our

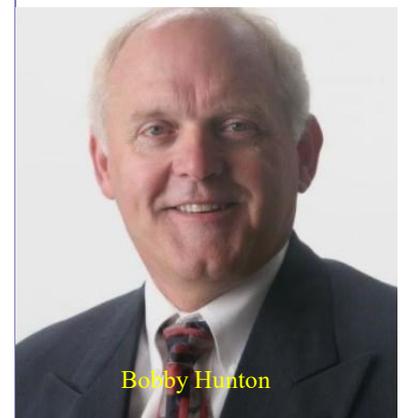
community and working tirelessly to fulfill those needs, Bobby Hunton invested in people and believed in the greater good.

Hunton was the co-founder of Stuff the Bus and Relators Hope for Homeless. He was a driving force when it came to helping those in need.

"He just believed in kindness, he believed in offer-

ing, and based upon what I know about Hometown Hero, I think Bobby embodied all of those elements of wanting good things for other people, and not just himself." "He is deserving of hometown hero because he believed and invested in his fellow person."

It is rare to meet a man of Bobby Hunton's caliber. lucky enough.



Bobby Hunton

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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.**  
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