



BROTHERS BROOKS
VISION 2 MISSION LLC

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Special points of interest:

- **America's homeless ranks graying as more retire on streets**
- **What the homeless need right now**
- **Word on the Street**

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WE CARE NEWS!!!

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



AMERICA'S HOMELESS RANKS GRAYING AS MORE RETIRE ON STREETS



PHOENIX (AP) — Karla Finocchio's slide into homelessness began when she split with her partner of 18 years and temporarily moved in with a cousin.

The 55-year-old planned to use her \$800-a-month disability check to get an apartment after back surgery. But she soon was sleeping in her old pickup protected by her German Shepherd mix Scrappy, unable to afford housing in Phoenix, where median monthly rents soared 33% during the coronavirus pandemic to over \$1,220 for a one-bedroom, according to ApartmentList.com. Finocchio is one face of America's graying homeless population, a rapidly expanding group of

destitute and desperate people 50 and older suddenly without a permanent home after a job loss, divorce, family death or health crisis during a pandemic.

"We're seeing a huge boom in senior homelessness," said Kendra Hendry, a caseworker at Arizona's largest shelter, where older people make up about 30% of those staying there. "These are not necessarily people who have mental illness or substance abuse problems. They are people being pushed into the streets by rising rents." Academics project their numbers will nearly triple over the next decade, challenging policy makers from Los Angeles to New York to imagine new ideas for sheltering the last of the baby boomers as they get older, sicker and less able to pay spiraling rents. Advocates say much more housing is needed, especially for extremely low-income people. Navigating sidewalks in wheelchairs and walkers, the aging homeless have medical ages greater than their years, with mobility, cognitive and chronic problems like diabetes. Many contracted

COVID-19 or couldn't work because of pandemic restrictions.

"It's so scary," said Finocchio, her green eyes clouding with tears while sitting on the cushioned seat of her rolling walker. "I don't want to be on the street in a wheelchair and living in a tent."

It was Finocchio's first time being homeless. She's now at Ozanam Manor, a transitional shelter the Society of St. Vincent de Paul runs in Phoenix for people 50 and up seeking permanent housing.

At the 60-bed shelter, Finocchio sleeps in a college-style women's dorm, with a single bed and small desk where she displays Scrappy's photo. The dog with perky black ears is staying with Finocchio's brother.

By ANITA SNOW, Associated Press

WHAT THE HOMELESS NEED RIGHT NOW

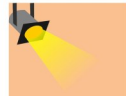
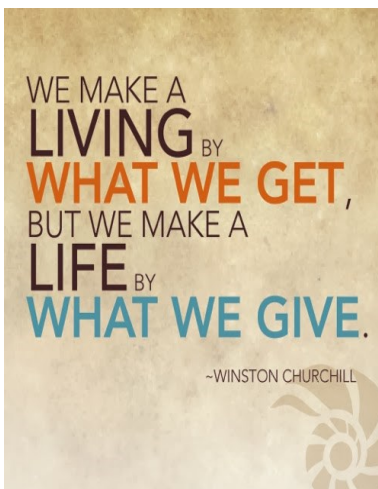
New York Mayor Adams' subway safety plan is promising. The subway is no substitute for a home, and the mayor is right to take action to get homeless New Yorkers living underground

— many of whom are dealing with mental health and substance abuse struggles — the services they require and a place to stay. But these vulnerable New Yorkers will need more than just a place to stay if they are going to thrive; they will need a home of their own. There's more bad news: We just took a step backward on our way to funding the thousands more new supportive housing units we need. Hochul included a notable

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Darkness II Light Homeless Shelter

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SPOT LIGHT— DARKNESS II LIGHT OUTREACH MINISTRIES AND HOMELESS SHELTERS

Darkness II Light Outreach Ministries is a Christian outreach Ministry created and designed to assist the underprivileged in need of a full range of charitable human services. We are pleased that you stopped by our website to learn more about our organization. Please take the time to review the many ways we assist the homeless, recovering drug addicts, ex-convicts, poor, hungry, elderly, juvenile, foster care children more. The program is open to men, women and children. We are committed to making a difference in our communi-

ty by making these individuals spiritually aware in the process of assisting them to see light when they are in the darkness. We serve people of all races, creeds, gender and orientation regardless of their ability to pay for our professional services.

Darkness II Light Recovery Programs are targeted toward servicing the needs of men and women who are experiencing a "life crisis" due to job lay off, temporary unemployment, home foreclosure, eviction, disability, retirement, parole and emergency situations that desire to re-

group, recover, change and pursue a spiritually healthier and better way of life.

We believe that all God's people deserve the basic necessities in life, no matter who they are, what they are or where they have traveled during their life journey.

God is loving, kind, compassionate, merciful and very forgiving, so who are we to judge. Darkness II Light Outreach Ministries has been called by God for the purpose of serving the homeless, hungry, poor, less fortunate, under-privileged, spiritually sick and lost souls in this world.

California senator proposes \$1,000 'basic income' checks for homeless high school

As efforts to provide a guaranteed income spring up around California, a lawmaker who has pushed for such state-funded pilot programs has set his sights on another population he says should benefit — low-income high school seniors on the brink of adulthood.

State Sen. Dave Cortese, a Democrat from Campbell, is sponsoring a bill for the state to give no-strings-attached checks to about 15,000 high school seniors who have experienced homelessness,

starting from around the time of graduation to their fall enrollment in college or vocational school or their entry into the workforce.

About 183,000 California K-12 students were homeless at some point during the 2020-21 school year, according to the California Department of Education.

The proposed legislation does not specify how high school seniors would apply for the payments or how much they would be. Cortese said he's hoping the pilot program would offer \$1,000 monthly checks for four or five months for

for the 2023 graduating class, possibly costing the state about \$85 million a year.

The legislation passed out of the Senate Education Committee last week with little opposition and now heads to the Senate Human Services Committee. The bill arose from an original idea to pilot a basic income program at select California State University campuses, where nearly 11% of students experiencing homelessness.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 WHAT THE HOMELESS NEED

provision in her proposal for the 2023 executive budget: one that would make it possible for empty hotels, bankrupted by the pandemic, to be converted to supportive housing, with mental health and substance use services on site. But neither the state Senate nor Assembly included this in their version of the budget. This key provision must be included in the final result.

Hotel conversions are much cheaper and faster than building new affordable housing units from the ground up. Hotels already have the plumbing and other infrastructure required to turn empty rooms into viable, dignified Single Room Occupancies (another housing solution that Adams has called for). This is the clear answer to our supportive housing crisis, and the key to making the subway safety plan a suc-

cess. Right now, the alternative — moving people off the streets and subways into congregate shelters — is not a real solution.



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— Black, Hispanic people remain homeless longer in Lexington. City wants to find out why

"Black and Hispanic people are experiencing homelessness longer than white people in Lexington, and Hispanic people are returning to homelessness after being housed at much higher rates than white people, data collected by the city's homeless system shows.

"We need to know why," said Polly Ruddick, the director of the city's Office of Homelessness Prevention and Intervention. As part of a competitive

grant process to get funding through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, homeless systems analyze data collected from homeless services providers to look for racial disparities.

Lexington examined data from Oct. 1 2018, to Sept. 30, 2020, or two federal fiscal years. The federal fiscal year begins Oct. 1.

The initial data showed:
— Black people are over-

represented in the homeless system. Twenty-two percent of Black Fayette County residents live in poverty but they made up 28.2% of all people experiencing homelessness.

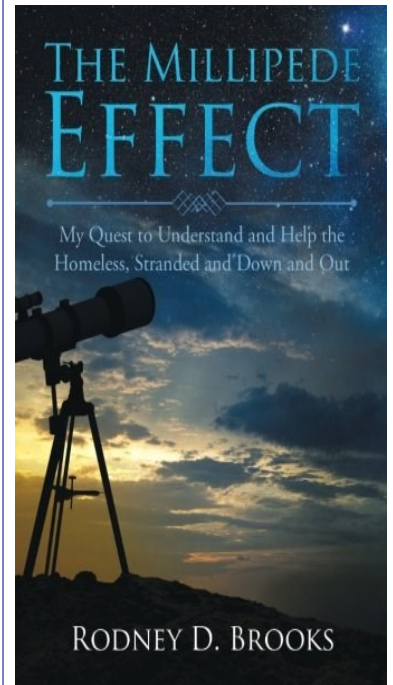
— Hispanic people are underrepresented in the data. Just over 5% of Lexington's Latinx population lives in poverty yet made up only 4.2% of the homeless population during that three-year time period.

LOCAL JOPLIN, MO, GROUPS AWARDED GRANT TO HELP PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS—KIMBERLY BARKER, THE JOPLIN GLOBE, MO.

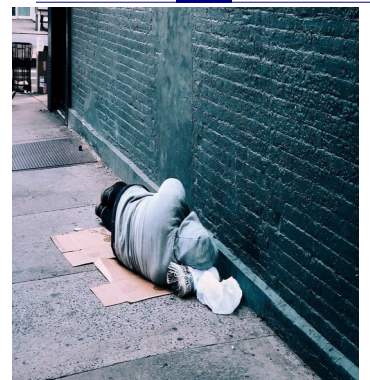
Joplin-area groups aiming to end homelessness in the community were recently awarded more than half a million dollars to aid with rental assistance and other supportive services to help people find permanent housing. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development awarded the Homeless Coalition of Jasper and Newton Counties a \$625,350 grant through its

Continuum of Care Competition Awards Program — the largest source of federal grant funding for homeless services and housing programs for people experiencing homelessness. The coalition is a nonprofit effort made up of several area organizations that coordinate services and share information to assist individuals impacted by all aspects of homelessness. The

\$625,350 award will be distributed to the coalition and its partner agencies, including Economic Security Corporation of Southwest Area, Catholic Charities of Southem Missouri and the Missouri Department of Mental Health. Economic Security Corporation, or ESC, located at 302 S. Joplin Ave., is part of a network of more than 1,000 community-action agencies serving the needs.



HOMELESS
Give them a hand
not the boot



**BROTHERS BROOKS
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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!



Rodney D. Brooks
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Founder of Brothers Brooks
Vision 2 Mission LLC.**
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