



**Special points of interest:**

- **Being A Runaway Can Lead to the Spiraling Life of Homelessness**
- **11 Facts About Homeless Teens**
- **Word on the Street**

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# WE CARE NEWS!!!

**An Informative Newsletter regarding the Homeless, Stranded  
and Down & Out in America (Teen Edition)**

## **BEING A RUNAWAY CAN LEAD TO THE SPIRALING LIFE OF HOMELESSNESS**

We are all use to hearing the stories of kids running away from home and end up being found at a good friends house or at your local YMCA. Unfortunately that is not the case now in the majority of runaway cases. The youth do not end up in a familiar situation but end up running into predators or being out on cold and merciful streets fighting for survival among the most street savvy and ruthless people on occasion. “Homelessness among young people is a serious issue. Homeless youth, sometimes referred to as unaccompanied youth, are individuals who lack parental, foster or institutional care. The National Runaway Switchboard estimates that on any given night there are approximately 1.3 million homeless youth living unsupervised on the streets, in abandoned buildings, with friends or

with strangers. Homeless youth are at a higher risk for physical abuse, sexual exploitation, mental health disabilities, substance abuse, and death. It is estimated that 5,000 unaccompanied youth die each year as a result of assault, illness, or suicide.” according to the NCSL (National Conference of State Legislation). States have adopted a variety of policies to combat youth homelessness. Some of these policies address the educational needs of homeless and runaway youth while others appropriate money for shelters and transitional housing. Other policies include counseling and outreach services to already homeless youth or youth at risk of becoming homeless. he Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA), admin-

istered by the Family and Youth Services Bureau, part of the Department of Health and Human Services’ Administration for Children and Families, was first enacted in 1974 and is the only federal law that focuses on unaccompanied, homeless youth. The RHYA, as currently amended, authorizes federal funding for three programs —the Basic Center Program, Transitional Living Program, and Street Outreach Program— to assist runaway and homeless youth.



## **EARLY INTERVENTION AND PREVENTION PROGRAMS**

To fight this plight of runaways to homeless there are a couple of key things that our state legislatures can do. *Early Intervention and Prevention Programs:* Many youth become homeless as a result of family problems and financial difficulties. As

a result, young people often lack the necessary supports to help them find jobs, obtain an education and reunite with their families. States can implement a homelessness prevention program that includes counseling, family reunification

services, and rent assistance





## SPOT LIGHT— HEARTS WITH A MISSION



Hearts with A Mission •

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*"Since being at  
Hearts With a Mission,  
I feel like my life has a purpose"*



Hearts With A Mission is a faith-based 501(c)(3) non-profit, all services provided are confidential and free of charge. Hearts With A Mission services are available to all eligible youth in Jackson County regardless of race, color, sex, national origin, religion, sexual orientation or disability. Youth from outside of Jackson County are screened on a case-by-case basis and upon bed availability Hearts With A Mission is licensed by the

State of Oregon, as a Child Caring Agency to provide services for homeless, runaway and transitional living youth, ages 10-17. Hearts With A Mission serves homeless and at-risk youth by providing shelter, educational support, mentoring and transition planning with a faith-based approach. Hearts With A Mission is not a religious organization. It is not associated with any particular religious congregation. Hearts With A Mission was founded on the

same Judeo-Christian values that our nation was built upon. Faith at the shelter will be "lived" not "preached". As founder, I believe in God and the saving grace of His Son Jesus Christ. It will be our desire to serve God by the demonstration of our faith through action by our love for Him and the support of homeless and at-risk youth. It will be our highest honor to serve youth and their families of all backgrounds.

## Ending Youth Homelessness - Guidebook Series



With the launch of Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness, the Federal Administration established goals to prevent and end youth homelessness by 2020. Youth experience homelessness for any number of reasons such as— abuse, family conflict, or aging out of foster care. Youth who are homeless are especially

vulnerable to victimization, exploitation and traumatic stress. The purpose of these Guidebooks is to help communities:  Learn to approach this goal by building comprehensive systems of care  Ensure the appropriate type of housing assistance and level of services are available within the community  Reach out and partner with a comprehensive set of

traditional and nontraditional youth homelessness stakeholders  Incorporate experiences of homeless of formerly homeless unaccompanied youth and incorporate this into the coordinated community plan  Use innovative practices to design better projects and strong comprehensive plans to prevent and end youth homelessness



## 11 FACTS ABOUT HOMELESS TEENS (DOSOMETHING.COM)

1. 34% of the total homeless population is under 24. 2. Some homeless children and youth are with their families. 45,205 were unaccompanied. 3. About 80% of homeless youth (aged 12-21) use drugs or alcohol as a means to self-medicate to deal with the traumatic experiences and abuse they face. 4. The Department of Justice estimates that every year, over 1.7 million teens experience homelessness in the US 5. 1 in 5 youths under the age of 18 will run away at least

once. 6. Approximately 40% of homeless teens identify as LGBT. 7. Family rejection on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity was the most frequently cited factor contributing to LGBT homelessness (46%). 8. Over 50% of young people in shelters and on the streets report that their parents told them to leave or knew they were leaving and didn't care. 9. Sexual abuse among adolescent runaways, prepared for the U.S. Department of

Health and Human Services, found that 21-40% of homeless youth had been sexually abused compared to 1-3% of the general youth population. 10. Of youth who run away, 41% have been abandoned by their parents for at least 24 hours and 43% have been beaten by a caretaker. 11. HIV rates for homeless people are 3 to 5 times higher than reported rates for comparative samples in the US. A study across four cities found a prevalence of 2.3% for homeless youth under 25.



## NEW BOOK RELEASE: 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** — Study finds teens in homeless families more likely to attempt suicide [Medical xpress.com](http://Medicalxpress.com)



Homelessness strikes three times more families in Minnesota than it did ten years ago. For example, the Minnesota Department of Education reports that, in Minneapolis Public Schools alone, over 1,800 children in kindergarten through 12th grade were homeless in 2016. Similar trends have occurred nationwide—1 in

30 children are homeless annually, according to one recent estimate. These children often experience tremendous cumulative stress that places their emotional, physical and developmental health in jeopardy. At the same time, factors such as positive parenting can "buffer" adversity to help children reach their full po-

tential in spite of the odds. However, it's been unclear how effectively these protective factors mitigate the risk of serious emotional health problems, including suicide, in youth experiencing family homelessness compared to youth with stable housing.

## STATISTICS ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING

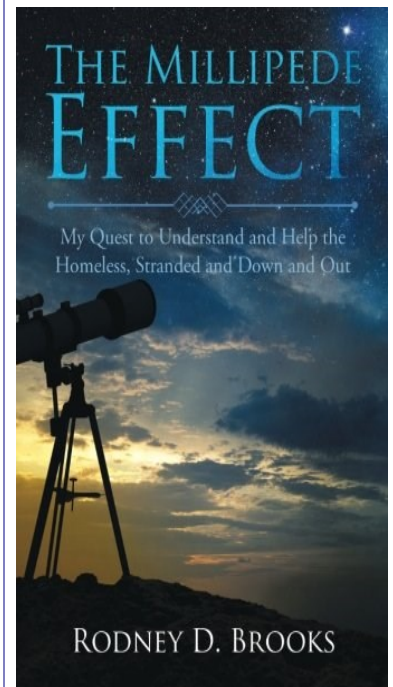
According to the U.S. State Department, 600,000 to 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders every year, of which 80% are female and half are children.

Human trafficking is the third largest international crime industry (behind illegal drugs and arms trafficking). It reportedly generates a profit of \$32 billion every year. Of that number,

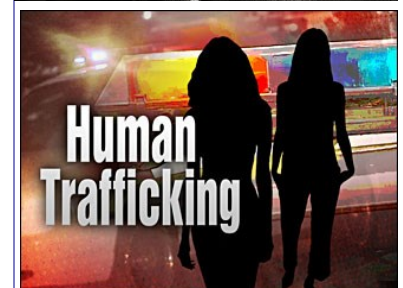
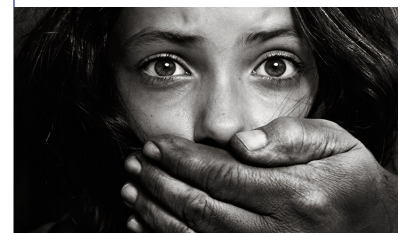
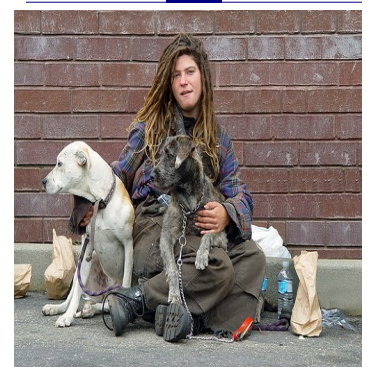
\$15.5 billion is made in industrialized countries. The International Labour Organization estimates that women and girls represent the largest share of forced labor victims with 11.4 million trafficked victims (55%) compared to 9.5 million (45%) men

This silent epidemic has come after our teens with a vengeance and it is definitely praying

on those youth who are runaways and who find themselves into a life homelessness. Being vigilant is key and it takes all to truly get involved to save our children.



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



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*A Heritage of Excellence  
in Helping Others!!!*

We are on the web at [bbv2m-brothersbrooksvision2missionllc.com](http://bbv2m-brothersbrooksvision2missionllc.com)



***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.*



**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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