



**Special points of interest:**

- **A Season of Giving throughout the US to the Homeless**
- **Human Trafficking**
- **Word on the Street**

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# WE CARE NEWS!!!

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

## A SEASON OF GIVING

### THROUGHOUT THE US TO THE HOMELESS

Throughout the United States in community after community people opened up the hearts and wallets to offer assistance to the homeless during the Thanksgiving and Christmas Holidays of 2017. Shelters and agencies looked for various ways to meet the needs of the less fortunate from east coast to the west coast and from the north to the south. In Knoxville TN., Channel 10 news reported the following: on a rainy and windy morning two days before Christmas, Santa paid a visit to the homeless living underneath the overpass on Broadway near downtown Knoxville.

"It's not much, it's just the thought that counts," said James Waters, who was donating gifts with his family. "These people down here need to know that there are people who still care. We do it because we understand everybody down here is not down here because they are addicts and alcoholics, they're down

here because they fell on hard times. Anybody can fall on hard times."

In Meridian, MS L.O.V.E.s kitchen continued the spirit of serving as it does throughout the year providing Thanksgiving and Christmas meals to the many that are in need. L.O.V.E.s is lead by Executive Director Fannie Johnson who is also a newly elected City Council Representative told the Meridian Star "But that's what every family does," she said. "And we're family here."

According Q13 Fox news in Seattle, The Union Gospel Mission will prepare over 50,000 holiday meals during the holiday One of its chef's Eugene Kosch said "If I can put a smile on somebody's face by doing something to give back. I can remember what it was like when the meal really counted for me. And I know that I'm making their day like someone made

my day,"

Fannie Johnson, Executive Director



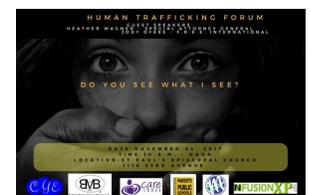
## HUMAN TRAFFICKING FORUM

### Awareness is Key!!

Most may not understand the correlation between Human Trafficking and Homelessness. 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. One of its key feeder pool is runaways and homeless. The Forum in Meridian, MS was hosted by S. Paul Episcopal Church and had key speakers from the Attorney General Office and F.R.E.E. International. For more information you can reach out by website at [free-international.org/](http://free-international.org/) or call 702-

423-6105





## SPOT LIGHT— FIREHOUSE MINISTRIES



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The Firehouse Shelter serves more homeless men than any agency in the state of Alabama and operates the broadest, most comprehensive continuum of services for Birmingham's homeless. At the heart of our mission are chronic hard-core homeless men, 90% of whom come from the Birmingham metro area.

Nearly 67% of the men who enter our doors are chronically homeless, which means that they have been homeless at least 4X in the past 3 years or have spent at least

one year straight living on the streets (park bench, abandoned building, parked car, an alley way, etc). It is documented that 30% of these men have a diagnosed severe mental illness. Some estimates place the mental illness numbers as high as 70%.

We have found the issues and barriers to overcoming chronic homelessness to be complex and costly. Change takes time and what these men need are time - time to get to the root of their problems, time to heal, and time to put together an action

plan that will allow them to achieve their full potential.

We believe that we can transform these lives by working together and partnering with other social service agencies that share our mission of re-weaving homeless men back into the fabric of society. (Taken from the firehouse ministries website)



## U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness

The [U. S. Interagency Council on Homelessness](#) (USICH) coordinates the Federal response to homelessness by partnering with 19 Federal agencies, state and local governments, advocates, service providers, and people experiencing homelessness to achieve the goals outlined in the first Federal strategic plan to prevent and end homelessness, [Opening Doors](#).

We know how to end homelessness among Veterans. Since 2014, more than 880 mayors, governors, and other state and local officials have answered the call of the [Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness](#), pledging to do all they can to ensure their communities succeed. And it's working. There has been [an unprecedented increase in collaboration](#) both among federal agencies and between the government and locally-driven efforts to

end homelessness among unaccompanied youth under age 25.



## LET'S STOP ABUSE ON THE HOMELESS?

When it comes to abuse regarding the homeless there are two major categories. Self-inflicted abuse such as substance abuse and third party abuse. Third party abuse is when individuals intentionally inflict physical abuse to a homeless person because they are homeless. Sometimes this abuse comes from adults but it can also come from our youth. This abuse is usually inflicted

on the elderly, female and disabled homeless. These three groups are the most vulnerable of the homeless next to children. When we see such abuse happening it's our moral responsibility to intervene by engaging the process so it will stop or getting help. We can make a difference!!



## 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** — Do NOT give to the homeless...directly. Donate to service providers and non profit organization—[GOOD4UTAH.COM](http://GOOD4UTAH.COM)



State and local officials say in the season of giving, don't give to the homeless, at least not directly to panhandlers. They say there is a better way to donate. The good intentions of people wanting to help the homeless may be doing more harm then good.

Lawmakers say giving to service providers is the better answer

A lot of times panhandling funds other things and I think we all know what that means," said Larry Anderson of St. Vincent de Paul in the Rio Grande district. "You might literally be killing the person your trying to help," said Lt. Governor Spencer Cox. "That money that you hand out to that panhandler right then and there on the street, that

might be the dosage that ends up killing the person," said Cox.

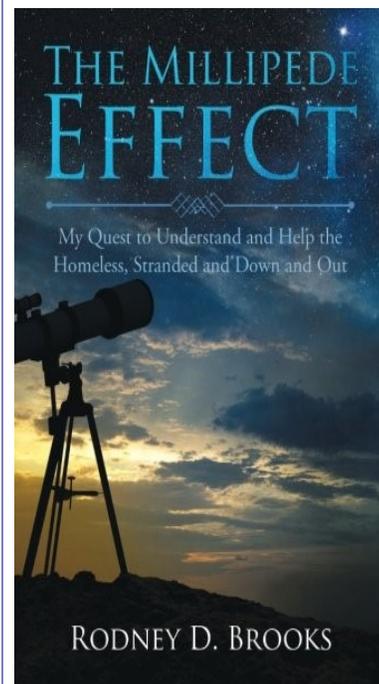
For the full story go to <http://www.good4utah.com/>

## A DAY EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

Humility - a modest or low view of one's own importance; humbleness. Today I took the role of one who is homeless, stranded or down & out and I stood at the busy intersection entrance to Wal-Mart and Lowes at Bonita Lake. As several hundreds of vehicles passed me by, six actually offered me money which I could not accept. My purpose was to make them aware of the many agencies that help those that are less fortunate. I did this by

handing them a flyer and explaining my purpose while they were trying to hand me money. I instructed them to reach out to the agencies and organizations listed and donate to them. I even met a friend or two. Please look to help those agencies and organizations that are on the front line of helping those that are less fortunate. Today was a humbling experience but even with that I was only in it for an hour while

other are in a lot longer. Those who are constantly having to ask others for assistance is nothing based on pride that they chose to do but out of necessity. Imaging standing on a corner hungry and someone looks at you while they are eating and drive on by. It is a different perspective.



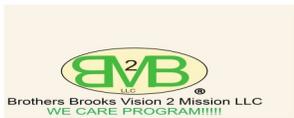
**HOMELESS**  
Give them a hand  
not the boot



**BROTHERS BROOKS  
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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**  
**Author and President & Founder of Brothers Brooks Vision 2 Mission LLC.**  
**(BBV2M LLC)**