



BROTHERS BROOKS
VISION 2 MISSION LLC

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Special points of interest:

- **New Study Offers Insights On Addressing Homelessness**
- **Can Smart Cities Solve Homelessness?**
- **Word on the Street**

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WE CARE NEWS!!!

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

NEW STUDY OFFERS INSIGHTS ON ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS



Americans want government intervention with homelessness. So why hasn't there been any?

As the COVID-19 pandemic worsens and we welcome a new administration, homelessness hasn't seemed to be a priority, or even a concern, for many politicians. This could be because homelessness has often been treated with antipathy. Many Americans feel uncomfortable when talking about it because people don't know how to solve the problem and prefer to ignore it.

But to what extent does the American public want to see

change in government response?

The answer: a lot

New research reveals 80.2% of Americans think the government has not done enough to help with homelessness, according to a new national survey conducted for Cornell University by the National Opinion Research Center (NORC) in October.

The study reveals key insights for California, which is experiencing homelessness at an all-time high, with rates of homelessness increasing every year. Results may also provide support for government action on homelessness as a political priority for the public during an election year.

The idea is not new. Various localities have attempted to provide some sort of policy mediating the effects of homelessness, with limited success.

People praise the idea of housing urban homeless populations — until this housing is in their neighborhoods or uses their tax dollars. Most legislation has been fraught with inaction, with government officials stalling while the number of people experiencing homelessness continues to rise.

It is evident America wants to see change now. Conflict over whether this change should occur at a local or broader level is continuing to hold us back and has reached unsustainable levels.

We need to put considerations of ideas of fairness or diversion of blame aside, and instead think about the kind of place we really want to live in. Consider: Would it improve your daily life if homelessness was seriously addressed?

By Genevieve Richards
December 28, 2020

CAN SMART CITIES SOLVE HOMELESSNESS?

Smart cities are often visualized as something out of the Jetsons or the old German silent film Metropolis. With hovercars zooming around and tall skyscrapers dotting the horizon. However, smart cities will also be able to gather more data about their citizens than ever before. In

this regard, they may be able to gather enough data to solve a huge problem plaguing modern cities; homelessness.

The IEEE Research Paper In an IEEE research paper titled Smart City Response to Homelessness, the researchers propose several

solutions to homelessness. The crux of their proposal hinges on the adoption of greater technology to gather more data. Their proposal is that through more data, policymakers and governments can determine more objective solutions.

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MISSION

LPCS brings communities together to empower individuals facing homelessness and poverty to secure stable housing and make sustainable life changes.

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SPOT LIGHT— LINCOLN PARK COMMUNITY SERVICES

CORE VALUES:

Empathy: We model compassion and understanding for all members of the LPCS community.

Equity: We achieve justice and celebrate diversity by providing inclusive, strength-based services.

Integrity: We foster a culture of respect, honesty and fairness.

Accountability: We commit to each other and those we serve in the delivery of client-centered services in a

safe and motivating environment.

VISION:

We work on the basis of accountability. LPCS staff, Guests, volunteers, stakeholders, and donors are a micro-community with common interests and goals that hold each responsible to the other.

Together, we work within Lincoln Park Community Services and with the larger community to ensure our members receive the support, respect, and under-

standing they need to empower their lives.

We will provide a holistic continuum of services that removes barriers and increases self-sufficiency. We will be a leader and innovator in creating solutions to homelessness in our community.

We believe that every person in our community has a stake in and can contribute to ending homelessness.

To make donations -
lexi@lpcschicago.org or
773-549-6111 ext. 220.

Joe Biden chooses Ohio Rep. Marcia Fudge to be HUD secretary

President-elect Joe Biden has selected Rep. Marcia L. Fudge (D-Ohio) as his secretary of housing and urban development, making her the second Black person to be chosen as a department head in his Cabinet. Fudge is a veteran lawmaker and former chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus, perhaps Biden's most pivotal endorser during the 2020 Democratic primaries and a powerful

backer of the Ohio congresswoman, had confidently predicted earlier Tuesday in an MSNBC interview that she would be tapped for a Cabinet-level job. The next HUD secretary is expected to reverse policies under Trump administration secretary Ben Carson that have eviscerated Obama-era fair-housing protections and enforcement, legal standards meant to keep lenders, land-

lords and insurers from discriminating. Fudge, 68, would be the first woman to lead HUD in more than 40 years. First elected to Congress in 2008, Fudge has established herself as a straightforward, no-nonsense lawmaker and advocate who has been willing to challenge the most senior officials in the Democratic Party. Before her tenure on Capitol Hill, Fudge was mayor of Warrensville Heights, Ohio.

CAN SMART CITIES SOLVE HOMELESSNESS? CONTINUED

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For instance, through a central database of homeless persons and available affordable housing, the two can be matched. This can be done per their needs and requirements. Policymakers can also use this data to determine what kind of housing is needed by the vast majority of homeless people. The paper's proposals say that taking data provid-

ed consensually from various people's phones can help with this. If this data is fed into a central database, better decisions can be taken to alleviate homelessness. For smart cities homelessness is like any other problem, quantifiable, and solvable. The cities of Seattle and San Francisco have both adopted a system to help homeless people. One is a phone line "311" in both

cities. This number allows residents to report tent cities and encampments where homeless people reside. This has been a direct response to homelessness surging 17% from 2017 to 2019 in San Francisco.

Article by Prodigy News



WE MAKE A
LIVING BY
WHAT WE GET,
BUT WE MAKE A
LIFE BY
WHAT WE GIVE.

—WINSTON CHURCHILL

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 — Couple finally home for Christmas

Karla and Marshall Press sat on the couch in their new home and tried to remember how they celebrated Christmas last year.

"We didn't really have Christmas last year," Karla said, turning to her husband for confirmation. "What did we do for Christmas?"

The couple had been homeless for the past couple of

years, and Christmas was just another day. Marshall seemed to remember seeing more drive-bys that day, the term for people who pass through homeless areas to give toiletries and food, but then remembered that they had a meal served by the Salvation Army at Golden Hall in downtown San Diego. This year will be more memorable and meaningful.



Earlier this month, the couple became two of the first of 400 homeless people who will move into one of two hotels the city of San Diego bought to convert to housing.

FORMER HOTEL BECOMES HOUSING FOR HOMELESS IN BAY AREA COUNTY

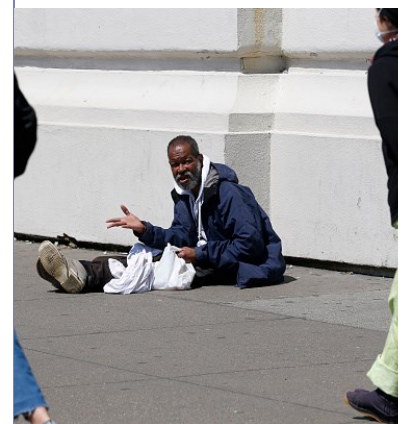
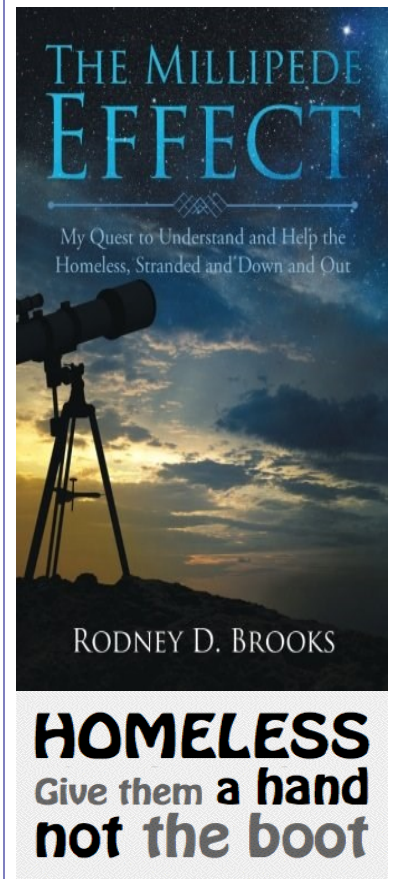
The second of two new housing complexes for people experiencing homelessness, the former Sebastopol Inn, is scheduled to open in Sebastopol next week, expanding the county's supply of long-term shelter options.

The 31-room supportive housing complex, opening the week of Dec. 28, is the second of two acquired by the county through funds

made available through the state's Project Homekey, county officials said. The official virtual opening ceremony was Dec. 30. The former Hotel Azura, rechristened Mickey Zane Place, opened as supportive housing in Santa Rosa Dec. 14. Taken together, the two facilities will be able to accommodate a total of 100 unsheltered people between them, including those most

at risk for contracting COVID-19, according to county officials.

"It couldn't be coming a more critical time given how the number of COVID-19 cases in our County have more than doubled in recent weeks," Hopkins said. Supervisors approved the purchase and remodeling of both locations in November.



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