



**BROTHERS BROOKS**  
VISION 2 MISSION LLC

Volume 5, Issue 4

Newsletter Date  
October 2021



#### Special points of interest:

- **Biden-Harris Administration Launches House America Initiative to Address Homelessness Crisis**
- **Editorial: What Gov. Newsom is doing right on homelessness -- and how he could do better**
- **Word on the Street**

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# WE CARE NEWS!!!

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



## BIDEN-HARRIS ADMINISTRATION LAUNCHES HOUSE AMERICA INITIATIVE TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS CRISIS



WASHINGTON - U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Marcia L. Fudge, who serves as chair of the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH), today joined Biden-Harris Administration officials, “The pandemic has shown us that we, as a nation, are only as strong as the most vulnerable among us,” said Secretary Fudge. “Addressing homelessness is not only about helping the individuals and families who face the greatest housing challenges, but also about the well-being and economic security of our communities and our whole na-

tion. The Biden-Harris Administration looks forward to working alongside state and local partners on solutions that help to eradicate homelessness. By leveraging American Rescue Plan resources and other federal funds through a Housing First approach, we can ensure more people have a safe, stable place to call home.”

House America is the federal government’s direct response to the crisis of homelessness, which was rising even before the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic. In March, HUD released its 2020 Annual Homeless Assessment Report Part 1 to Congress, which found that more than 580,000 people experienced homelessness in the United States on a single night in January 2020, prior to the pandemic. COVID-19 has created greater urgency to address homelessness, given the heightened risks faced by people experiencing homelessness. At the

same time, COVID-19 has slowed re-housing activities due to capacity issues and impacts on rental market vacancies.

Through the American Rescue Plan, communities now have historic housing resources - 70,000 emergency housing vouchers, \$5 billion in HOME grants, and significant investments to preserve and protect housing on tribal lands - to help more Americans obtain the safety of a stable home. The American Rescue Plan also provides \$350 billion in State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds through the Department of the Treasury to support the many needs communities face, including homelessness and housing instability, as they respond to the pandemic and its negative economic impacts.

### EDITORIAL: WHAT GOV. NEWSOM IS DOING RIGHT ON HOMELESSNESS – AND HOW HE COULD DO BETTER

More than any of his recent predecessors as governor, Gavin Newsom has approached the state's homelessness crisis with the seriousness it deserves — and has taken the right approach by embracing the Housing First concept that people should be in stable housing

before they tackle their substance abuse needs. He has also, smartly, prioritized building permanent housing over shelter. The latest round of state grants for homeless services cannot be spent to create new group shelters. Since Newsom took office in 2019, he has injected a much-needed poverty, the research offers

infusion of billions of state and federal dollars into homelessness services and housing. In the current budget, \$10.3 billion has been set aside for affordable housing, which will help keep more low-income Californians from falling into homelessness.



## Doing the Most Good®

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## SPOT LIGHT— SALVATION ARMY

### Our Mission Statement.

The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian Church. Its message is based on the Bible. Its ministry is motivated by the love of God. Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination.

For those with no place to go or in need of emergency shelter, local Salvation Army homeless shelters provide

a warm, safe place for men, women, and – whenever possible – families to stay. In cities where we do not operate homeless shelters, we offer financial assistance to cover emergency overnight housing costs or refer those facing housing and food insecurity to partner programs with emergency shelter services.

Even during a pandemic, our homeless shelters evolved and innovated to serve their neighbors in need despite the ongoing challenges. Check out

the internationally recognized efforts of The Salvation Army of Marquette County Michigan's successful efforts to keep people fed and sheltered when the public transit system was shut down due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



## Eviction Data Shows Gaps in Aid After Federal Moratorium Ended

New data from The Eviction Lab at Princeton University shows the gaps in aid created when the federal eviction moratorium was lifted in August. In all, the data estimates the moratorium prevented more than 1.55 million evictions in the six states and 31 cities that Eviction Lab tracks during the 11 months it was in effect. However, differences in local interpretation and implementation of the moratorium caused some states to provide renters with stronger protections than others. The data also shows

that more than 532,000 eviction filings have been filed since May 2020. States that Eviction Lab tracks like Indiana, Missouri, and New Mexico lead the way with more than 108,000 eviction filings between them. While the number of evictions has not spiked the way some experts believed it would after the moratorium was lifted, others believe the wave may still be over the horizon. "I think it's too early to declare decisively that this isn't happening,"

“said Peter Hepburn, a research fellow at the Eviction Lab. “This may not take the form of a sudden spike in eviction cases all at once. It may be something that’s much more delayed and diffuse.”

Even though experts disagree on the number of people at risk of eviction, many believe it is time to address issues with assistance programs and other measures designed to help people stay housed.

### EDITORIAL: WHAT GOV. NEWSOM IS DOING RIGHT ON HOMELESSNESS – AND HOW HE COULD DO BETTER

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An additional \$12 billion will go into housing and services — but mostly housing — for homeless people. Allocation of the funds will be spread over two years. That's the largest sum the state has ever spent on homeless housing and services in that period of time. Much of the funding to house homeless people will go to Homekey, an innova-

tive program in which cities, counties or other government entities — sometimes in partnership with a developer — can apply for funds to buy hotels, motels, apartment buildings and other structures that can be transformed into permanent or interim housing for homeless people. The program, which began last year with federal pandemic relief funding, helped the city of

L.A. buy 15 sites to create 744 units of permanent supportive housing. The governor's office expects 44,000 units of housing statewide to be financed through the Homekey program in the next two years.



## 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 — Homeless Youth Legal and Advocacy Project (HYLAP)

With national estimates showing that close to 1.6 million children and youth experience homelessness without a parent or guardian and are at a high risk of being victimized on the streets, our Homeless Youth Legal & Advocacy Project (HYLAP) was launched in 2017 to address criminal defense issues that hinder youth experiencing homelessness from growth and independence and con-

nect them to essential resources. As the only program of its kind in Southern California to empower homeless youth through pro-bono legal representation and personalized advocacy, HYLAP has represented over 230 clients, assisted with over 500 legal issues, and saved more than \$500,000 in legal fees and fines.

HYLAP is uniquely designed to provide each youth client

with holistic support by assigning both an attorney and advocate who offer emotional support and resource navigation as they work on resolving legal challenges. Prospective clients must be between the ages of 14-27. Please contact our Executive Director & Managing Attorney, Michelle Woodson, at (619) 354-9879

or [mitchelle@thinkdignity.org](mailto:mitchelle@thinkdignity.org) to enroll in the program.

### DAVID KRAKAUER IS RUNNING TO SUPPORT PINE STREET INN AND THEIR MISSION TO END HOMELESSNESS

In the "Why I'm Running" series, Boston Marathon runners share what's inspiring them to make the 26.2-mile trek from Hopkinton to Boston.

Name: David Krakauer  
Age: 55  
From: Brookline, MA

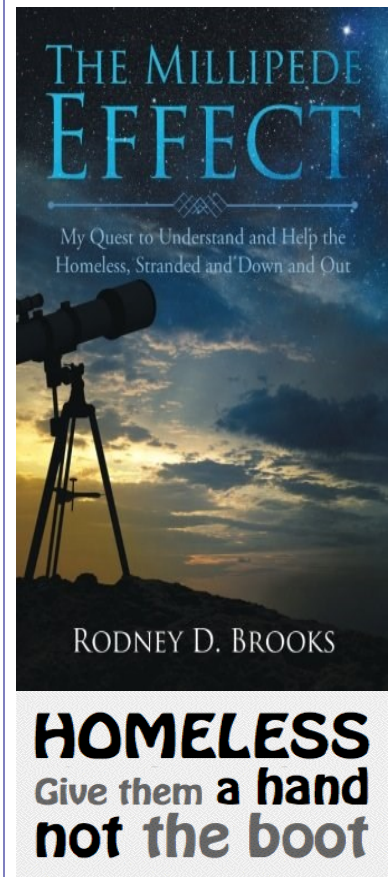
I'm running to support the incredible work of Pine

Street Inn and to help them achieve their mission to end homelessness.

This will be my seventh time running for PSI, and the second time doing it with my brother.

As long as there is homelessness in the Greater Boston area, and as long as my body holds out, I will continue to run for PSI.

By Mihiro Shimano  
[Boston.com](http://Boston.com)





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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 patriarchs 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)**