



BROTHERS BROOKS
VISION 2 MISSION LLC

Volume 7 Issue 2

Newsletter Date
April 2023

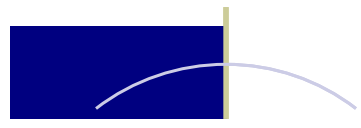


Special points of interest:

- **Alarm as US states pass ‘very concerning’ anti-homeless laws**
- **What Don’t You Know About Homelessness?**
- **Word on the Street**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Spot Light— Salvation Army	2
Arizona Governor Vetoes a Bill to Ban Tents in Public Places.	2
The Millipede Effect	3
Word on the Street—	3
Life-changing experi- ence leads woman to offer free haircuts to homeless	3
How You Can Help	4



WE CARE NEWS!!!

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

ALARM AS US STATES PASS ‘VERY CONCERNING’ ANTI-HOMELESS LAWS

Numerous anti-homeless laws are being passed across the US as funding for social services is widely reduced, raising welfare concerns among advocates for the unhoused.

In Missouri, a new state law that took effect on 1 January makes it a crime for any person to sleep on state property. For unhoused people, sleeping in public parks or under city highways could mean up to \$750 in fines or 15 days in prison for multiple offenses.

Homelessness advocates have decried the law, claiming that it unfairly targets Missouri’s homeless populations. The law was signed by Missouri’s governor, Mike Parson, last June. Other cities and local municipalities in America have also passed measures targeting homeless individuals, through criminal consequences or forced hospitalization.

Cities across the country have seen a backlash to attempts by officials to remove homeless encampments or limit where unhoused people can camp.

In August, the Los Angeles city council voted to ban homeless encampments within 500ft of schools and daycares, an extension of the city’s anti-camping law that has enabled police to sweep encampments, reported Spectrum News 1.

The ordinance passed as a federal program that moved homeless people into hotels during the Covid-19 pandemic ended. Protesters marched through the downtown Chicago area in November to protest against the city’s announcement that donated winterized tents for homeless people had to be removed for street cleaning, reported the Chicago Tribune. The city later confirmed that the tents did not have to be taken down, but could be moved.

Andy Robelo, founder of the non-profit Feeding People Through Plants, provided the tents and criticized the city’s treatment of homeless people. “We’ve won this battle, but I want to win the war,” said Robledo to the Tribune. “The policy needs to change because

we’re going to keep fighting these battles all over the city. It’s happening constantly. The way to fight is to get people housing.”

Under the New York mayor, Eric Adams, who is entering the second year of his four-year tenure, city officials outlawed houseless people from sleeping on the city’s subway system or riding the trains all night.

New York City police also increased arrests within the transit system, with over 400 people arrested for “being overstretched” last year, according to New York police department statistics, reported Gothamist.

But the city’s budget passed in June cuts spending on homelessness services from \$2.8bn to \$2.4bn, with the drop in funding coming from a decrease in federal Covid-19 aid, reported City Limits.



WHAT DON’T YOU KNOW ABOUT HOMELESSNESS?

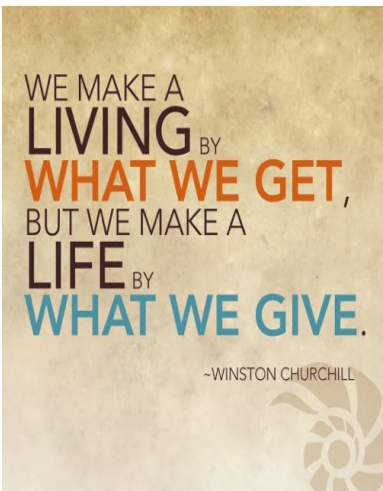
When you live in a house, some essentials typically come with it: a bed to sleep in, a place to store your belongings, access to a bathroom, an address that can receive mail, a door that

locks. Yet more and more Americans are losing these things. After years of steady declines, homelessness is once again increasing in the United States. More people are having to live either in shelters or outside, expelled poverty, the research offers

from housing by any of countless forces. The way that the United States estimates rates of homelessness — with groups of volunteers counting people who are unsheltered

Salvation Army

615 Slaters Lane, Alexandria,
VA 22314
1-800-SAL-ARMY
E-mail address:
www.salvationarmyusa.org



SPOT LIGHT— SALVATION ARMY

At The Salvation Army, our doors are open every day – and night – of the year. Through our emergency housing facilities, homeless shelters, transitional living centers, group homes, and family shelters, we provide over 10 million nights of lodging annually. In addition to supplying shelter from the elements, beds, food, and basic hygiene resources to those in need, we help combat long-term homelessness in America by serving homeless adults, veterans, and children with holistic physical, emotional, and spiritual support.

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. In providing its programs and services to the homeless community, The Salvation Army is committed to accommodating all those in need without unlawful discrimination or harassment based on age, race, color, religion, sex, national origin, marital status, disability, citizenship, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or any other characteristic in accordance with our capacity to help.

Arizona Governor Vetoes a Bill to Ban Tents in Public Places

PHOENIX (AP) — Arizona Gov. Katie Hobbs vetoed a bill Thursday that would have prohibited people from setting up tents or tarps in public areas.

Senate Bill 1024 would have stopped anyone from erecting makeshift shelters on sidewalks, alleyways, streets, parkways and other public rights-of-way.

The veto comes as Phoenix is dealing with rising homelessness. A Maricopa County Superior judge has ordered the city to clean up a homeless encampment

that spans nearly 10 blocks in the downtown area.

Business owners have sued the city over the homeless camp known as “The Zone,” where about 700 people have lived in recent months. They cite an increase in crime, drug usage in public, biohazards and break-ins.

According to the lawsuit, Phoenix should have no tents within public property. “We need to address Arizona’s housing and homelessness crisis in a comprehensive manner,” Hobbs

wrote in her veto letter send to the Legislature. “Rather than solving these issues in a meaningful manner, this bill only makes them less visible.”

Some Republican lawmakers disagreed with the Democratic governor, saying the veto enables homeless people to keep living on the street. Story by the Associated Press

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 WHAT DON'T YOU KNOW ABOUT HOMELESSNESS?

and in shelters on a few nights every January — ensures that official numbers reflect only the most extreme and visible aspects of the problem. The count of 582,462 people in the most recent report to Congress leaves out, for example, the person finding sanctuary for a few nights on a cousin’s couch. We know that more than a million people experience some form of homelessness every year.

Many of them — 28 percent of those counted in 2022 — are part of families with at least one child under 18. While about a third are chronically homeless, having lived for more than 12 months with a disability and without housing, most manage to get back into housing within a few months. But as you’ll see in their stories, their experiences of homelessness and housing insecurity often continue to affect their lives years after

their housing has stabilized. Story by the New York Times



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— Georgia Lawmakers: Localities Must Apply Homeless Camp Bans

ATLANTA (AP) — Georgia lawmakers are telling cities and counties that they must enforce existing bans on public camping or sleeping by homeless people while saying local governments and hospitals can't dump homeless people in other counties without permission.

The House voted 99-76 to pass Senate Bill 62 on Monday. The Senate later approved House amendments adding the ban on dumping, sending it to Gov.

Brian Kemp for his signature or veto.

"We should not have cities that are looking away as people choose, or feel they must, find different places to put their head every night," said Rep. Katie Dempsey, a Rome Republican.

The measure passed over vociferous Democratic opposition accusing Republicans of trying to criminalize homelessness and impose unworkable requirements on local govern-

ments.

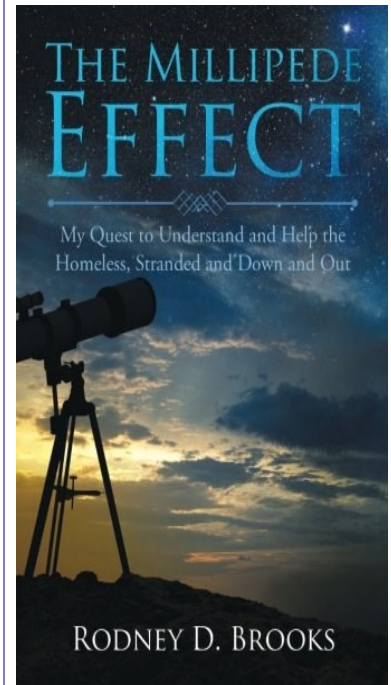
"We must end policies and practices that criminalize poverty," said Omari Crawford, a Decatur Democrat. "Criminal codes are already full of offenses that punish people for being poor. We need to repeal them all."

FELIPE'S STORY SUCCESS THROUGH HOMELESS SOLUTIONS

"I was on track to play D1 basketball, and things changed. I'm so thankful to the staff for the dedication and undying determination to help me jump start my life again and allow me to be humble." Felipe was a promising scholar and athlete, traveling from North Carolina to play D1 basketball here in New Jersey. But deep down, Felipe was struggling. The academic pressure and demands of being a D1 athlete were overwhelming. He be-

came severely depressed and admittedly even suicidal. He had no family nearby and no support system. He fell on hard times, and going back home was not an option. He found a temporary solution volunteering at a local church in exchange for a place to stay. He arrived at our doors a broken young man. His dreams of playing basketball and going to college were gone; he was depressed and unsure of his future. But it didn't take long

before he began feeling hopeful again. Felipe took great comfort knowing he had a support system at HSI. As a guest in our Safe Haven Program, he regained his confidence and expanded his life skills. Despite these challenges, he graduated from our program and is proud to be self-sufficient again. He has a job and is living on his own in a one-bedroom apartment nearby. It was a long, difficult journey for him, and he expressed humility and gratitude to the staff.



HOMELESS
Give them a hand
not the boot



**BROTHERS BROOKS
VISION 2 MISSION LLC**

BBV2M LLC
Meridian, MS 39305

601-701-8873
bbv2mllc@gmail.com
bbv2m-
brothersbrooksvision2missionllc.com
Facebook - BBV2MLLC
Twitter - @bbv2mllc



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