



BROTHERS BROOKS
VISION 2 MISSION LLC

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Special points of interest:

- **With more than half a million Americans unhoused, the U.S. is still struggling to solve the homelessness crisis**
- **Homelessness in U.S. Rose for 4th Straight Year, Report Says**
- **Word on the Street**

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WE CARE NEWS!!!

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



WITH MORE THAN HALF A MILLION AMERICANS UNHOUSED, THE U.S. IS STILL STRUGGLING TO SOLVE THE HOMELESSNESS CRISIS

The Covid pandemic caused a surge in housing costs and a rise in unemployment, leaving nearly 600,000 Americans unhoused in 2020.

"What people don't typically realize when they walk past a person who's homeless is that this person is costing taxpayers a lot of money," said Sam Tsemberis, chief executive officer at Pathways Housing First Institute.

In 2019, New York City spent a record-breaking \$3 billion to support its homeless population. California is also expected to break its record, allocating \$4.8 billion to the same issue over the next two years.

Despite the rising budget, overall homelessness in the U.S. has improved by only 10% compared with 2007. It's even worse for certain sub-groups, such as individual homelessness, which dropped by only 1% in the same period.

"Right now, we are trending in the wrong direction," said Anthony Love, interim executive

director at the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness. "The state of homelessness is pretty tenuous, and there are some small increases that are taking place across the board."

For decades, the U.S. has relied on a "housing first" approach to homelessness, where permanent housing is provided for homeless people without preconditions such as sobriety or employment.

"Without the coach to guide me into housing, I wouldn't be where I'm at now," said Shannon McGhee, who moved into his supportive housing in 2020 after being unhoused for four years. "Being able to have my housing first, I know that I'm in control of my environment. Now, what happens here is all about what I create."

However, some critics of the housing first approach say it hasn't shown enough real results to deem it successful.

"When the public is told that this particular policy is going to end homelessness, what they're

expecting is that they're going to see fewer homeless people around," said Stephen Eide, a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute. "I don't think that we've seen that in the case of housing first."

Over half a million Americans were unhoused in 2020.

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Some critics argue that housing first hasn't done much to solve the crisis.



HOMELESSNESS IN U.S. ROSE FOR 4TH STRAIGHT YEAR, REPORT SAYS

WASHINGTON — Homelessness in the United States rose for the fourth straight year, with about 580,000 people living on the streets or in temporary shelter at the start of 2020, ac-

ording to an annual nationwide survey that was completed before the pandemic.

But the report, which was released on Thursday, almost certainly underestimates the spread, depth and

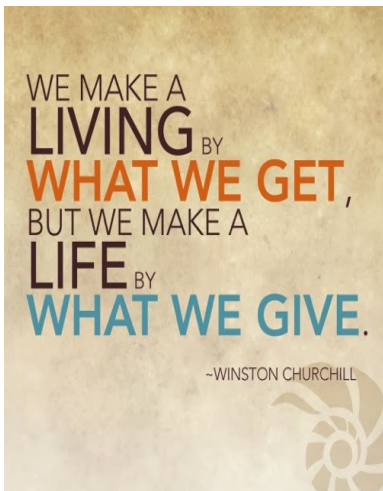
urgency of the crisis, and not by a little, federal officials warned.

The report showed a 2.2 percent increase in homelessness from the previous year, but that does not re-

poverty, the research offers

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SPOT LIGHT— WINGARD HOME MINISTRY

Wingard Home is a long term transition home for the homeless and displaced of Jackson, Mississippi and the surrounding area. We are dedicated to keeping the family unit intact. Unlike the “shelters,” Wingard Home takes a holistic approach to solve the problems of homelessness! At the Jackson Campus, we house married couples and parents with children together as part of our commitment to the family values that are so much a part of American life. Our mission is to get men, women, children and families off the streets, out of the gov-

ernment welfare trap, and working toward independence and financial stability. We offer our residents alternatives to gang life and the drug culture, and provide options to dependence on food stamps and government bail-out programs.

Everyday, Wingard Home has things that are being done. We have constant needs from food for the pantry or personal care items for guest. Almost anything can be used here.

We accept donations of any variety. Anything that can be used to help someone set up house once they get back on their feet is always needed. We accept clothing donations as well.

We always have projects going on around the ministry and will gladly accept volunteers. So much is going on here, and you can help in so many ways. Even if it's coming by to help cook dinner, we greatly appreciate it!

Why Isn't Homelessness Hitting Home? BY CYNTHIA GRIFFITH

We live in the Age of Information, an unparalleled page of history in the making where everything you've ever wondered about is merely one Google search away.

Knowledge was once something difficult to obtain. For example, 100 years ago, only 35% of U.S. residents had phones, meaning that 65% of Americans in the previous century needed to know Morse code just to send and receive basic info. Ironically, we're only able to divulge that data now

because it's readily available online.

The information revolution, spawned by modern tech like smartphones and WiFi, made information more accessible to a broader group of people. But that doesn't mean modern people are definitely more informed.

Pew Research reports that only 22% of today's readers are eager and willing to learn new things. Other individuals are much less optimistic about all the info, with 25% identified as wary and 24% described as doubtful.

Perhaps this data explains why certain modern horrors can exist right under our noses without ever really breaching that mental barrier we've set up between mindful cognition and willful ignorance. Perhaps it explains why something as abundant and in-your-face as homelessness has been relegated to the background of our minds. Is it possible that homelessness isn't hitting home because it's already knocking on our front doors?

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flect the displacement of people who lost work as a result of the sharp downturn caused by the coronavirus. “I can't give you numbers on how much homelessness has increased during the pandemic, but we know it has increased,” Marcia L. Fudge, who was confirmed last week as President Biden's secretary of housing and urban development, said during a briefing

at the White House.— is not a real solution. She called the situation “devastating,” and said the country had a “moral responsibility” to address both long-term homelessness and hardships spurred by the coronavirus.

HUD officials say the effect on homelessness might not be known for years. Nationwide moratoriums on evictions, which have been in place since last spring and are

scheduled to expire this year, have slowed the pace of displacement, although a Government Accountability Office report released this week showed the programs were not universally effective.



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— Why Are More Children Homeless than Ever Before?

Alas, other data does exist. And it clearly paints a very different portrait of child homelessness.

The National Center for Homeless Education, a federal information center for the US Department of Education, published a Federal Data Summary for school years 2015-16 and 2017-18. This research confirmed approximately 1,508,265 homeless school-aged students, reflecting a 15% increase from the previous

2015-2016 school year. This is even more alarming, considering 2013 marked the historical high. It looks like things have only trended upward since then.

It’s important to remember that these statistics only account for school-aged children who have not dropped out and are currently enrolled in a public K-12 curriculum. Unfortunately, homeless children are 87% more likely to drop out of school than their housed peers.

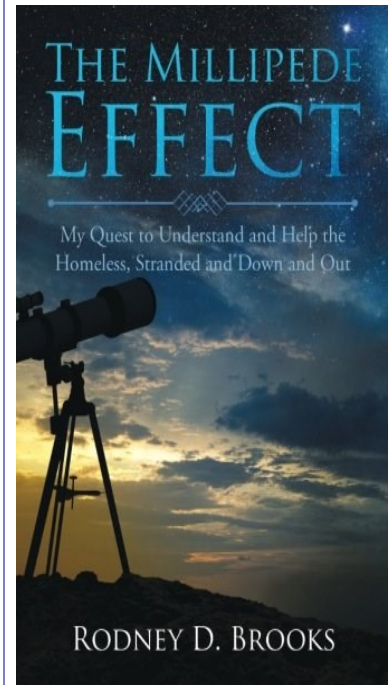
More than half of them are under 6, the age most children begin kindergarten. To put things into perspective, families accounted for just 1% of the homeless population back in 1988. Today, they make up at least 36% of the homeless community

HOMELESSNESS BY RODNEY D. BROOKS FOUNDER OF BBV2MLLC

What does it mean to be homeless? How does it feel to be homeless, not knowing where your next meal will come from? A couple of years ago I got out on the streets one cold December morning in 2019 to hold up a sign and see if people would give me anything. Some did, (which I did not take) and some didn’t. It was a humiliating feeling as people drove by. Some recognized me and were confused while many read my sign. Those that did stop to

give me something I politely gave them a list of shelters where they could donate their money to make a difference. The other day on my job, I found out a young lady (21) was sleeping in her car in the parking lot. She has a job but unfortunately, she was kicked out of her grandmother’s house and has nowhere to go. She is one of many who are working but yet and still they find themselves homeless. Another young man I encountered at

work is also homeless. His situation is that the cost of a place and no credit or insufficient credit history makes him ineligible. That’s a tough break. I don’t have the solution, but I am pretty sure if we all did something that things may change. I thank the many who are on the frontlines making a difference. I pray that you no give up on making a difference. It is not in vain. Matthew 25:37 -40



HOMELESS
Give them a hand
not the boot



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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 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!



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Founder of Brothers Brooks
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