



BROTHERS BROOKS
VISION 2 MISSION LLC

Volume 3, Issue 2

Newsletter Date
April 2019



Special points of interest:

- **NJ Teen Perseveres through Homelessness to get Accepted to 17 Colleges**
- **States The Most Unsheltered Homeless People**
- **Word on the Street**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Spot Light— The Mission At The Cross	2
HUD takes legal action	2
The Millipede Effect	3
Word on the Street—	3
Homeless Bill of Rights stalled	3
How You Can Help	4

WE CARE NEWS!!!

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

NJ TEEN PERSEVERES THROUGH HOMELESSNESS TO GET ACCEPTED TO 17 COLLEGES



In the wake of the nation's largest-ever college admissions scandal, a Jersey City teen is defying the odds through hard work, coming back from homelessness to receive nearly 20 college acceptance letters.

Dylan Chidick, 17, has received 17 acceptances so far, having applied to 18 schools. Dylan, who moved with his family from Trinidad when he was 7 years old, is on a quest to become the first person in his family to go to college.

"I wasn't really sure if I wasn't going to get into college because I don't have

the perfect grades or perfect GPA or perfect SAT score," Dylan said. "But I knew that when college admissions read my essay and see me as a whole person, I'd be OK."

Although Dylan has always wanted to go to college, it was a quick conversation with his mom, Khadine Phillip, that sealed the start of his ambitious journey.

"He came home one day and said 'Mom do you want me to go to college?,' " Phillip said. "And I said 'Yup. You're going to be the first one in our family to go to college.' "

For his college admission essays, Dylan chose not to write about his homelessness. At first, he was ashamed of it, he said. Instead he wrote about racism. Dylan wrote about how people who say they don't see color can't see who someone

really is, he said.

But ever since his first acceptance, to New England College, in October, the wave of letters have shown Dylan that he is finally seen for who he truly is, he said.

"I thought that people were listening to me and understanding me and seeing who I was as a whole, entire person," he said.

Story by **Rodrigo Torrejon, North Jersey Record**



STATES WITH THE MOST UNSHELTERED HOMELESS PEOPLE

There were an estimated 552,830 people experiencing homelessness across the United States in January 2018, essentially the same number as the same time last year.

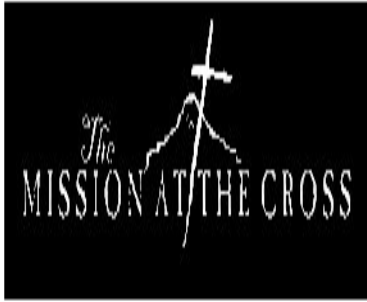
The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development delivers to Congress

annual estimates of homelessness across the nation. There is a great deal of variation in homelessness across the country.

Based on the latest report from HUD, 24/7 Wall St. reviewed the share of each state's homeless population that is unsheltered. Nation-

wide, approximately two-thirds of homeless individuals were staying in sheltered locations, while one-third lived on the street, in abandoned buildings, and other unsheltered places.

Here is a look at some of
Continued on page 2



Mission At The Cross is a working ministry that relies on volunteers, donations and fundraising to provide housing, meals and clothing free of charge to the men who grace our door

The MISSION AT THE CROSS
 324 South Magnolia Street
 Laurel, MS 39440
 Phone: 601-323-1460
 Or 601-649-1977 ext. 1704
 mike@missionatthecross.com
<http://missionatthecross.com/index.html>



"One person can make a difference, and everyone should try."
 — John F. Kennedy



SPOT LIGHT— THE MISSION AT THE CROSS

Mission At The Cross operates under the abiding principle of love for our fellow man and a desire to share God's love with all whom we encounter. It's very difficult to witness to a person who has been sleeping under a bridge for a week and is cold, tired and hungry. Add to that misery, suffering the break up of a family, the loss of a spouse or the loss of a job and the will to go on. Mission At The Cross provides that respite from homelessness and hopelessness and helps re-

store the lives of homeless men who have run out of options and men who are suffering from bad choices. Our ministry is unique and ever expanding as we witness God at work in the lives of the homeless men we serve. Pray that God will reveal to you what you can do to help and if He so directs, please come be a part of Mission At The Cross ministries all across America!

Mission At The Cross is a working ministry that relies on volunteers, donations and

fundraising to provide housing, meals and clothing free of charge to the men who grace our doors. Our purpose is to provide a safe, nourishing environment to men who have become homeless as a result of job loss, divorce, death of a spouse or substance abuse,



HUD accuses Facebook of housing discrimination — and eyes Google and Twitter too

The Department of Housing and Urban Development alerted Twitter Inc. and Alphabet Inc.'s Google last year that it is scrutinizing their practices for possible housing discrimination, a sign that more technology companies could be ensnared in a government probe of their lucrative demographic ad targeting tools, according to three

people with direct knowledge of the agency's . HUD charged Facebook Inc. with housing discrimination Thursday, alleging the social networking giant's targeted advertising platform violates the Fair Housing Act by "encouraging, enabling, and causing" unlawful discrimination by restricting who can view housing ads

"They want to make sure that other companies aren't getting away with something that one company is investigated for," said someone with direct knowledge of HUD's outreach to other tech companies who is not authorized to discuss the communications.

STATES WITH THE MOST UNSHELTERED HOMELESS PEOPLE

Continued from page 1

States with the highest concentration of unsheltered homeless people..

- 10. Arizona—41.2%
- 9. Texas—41.6%
- 8. Florida—43.2%

- 7. Mississippi—45.9%
- 6. Arkansas—46.3%
- 5. Washington—47.6%
- 4. Hawaii— 53.2%
- 3. Nevada—56.2%
- 2. Oregon 61.7%

- 1. California— 68.9%

Story is from **Thomas C. Frohlich**



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 — When bad intension s undermine good causes

A homeless man and a woman pleaded guilty Wednesday to federal charges in a GoFundMe scheme that prosecutors say netted \$400,000 with a phony story about him coming to her aid.

Johnny Bobbitt, 36, of Philadelphia, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit money laundering, and Katelyn McClure, 28, of Borden-

town, New Jersey, pleaded to a charge of conspiracy to commit wire fraud.

Bobbitt conspired with McClure and her then-boyfriend Mark D'Amico to make up a story in 2017 about Bobbitt giving McClure cash for gas when she was stranded along a Philadelphia highway, according to prosecutors.

The scheme raised \$400,000, which the couple claimed would be donated to Bobbitt. Instead, New Jersey authorities said, the three split the money and spent lavishly, including on a car, designer bags, and trips to Las Vegas, Disneyland, Disney World, the Grand Canyon and New York City. GoFundMe says it has refunded all the donations.

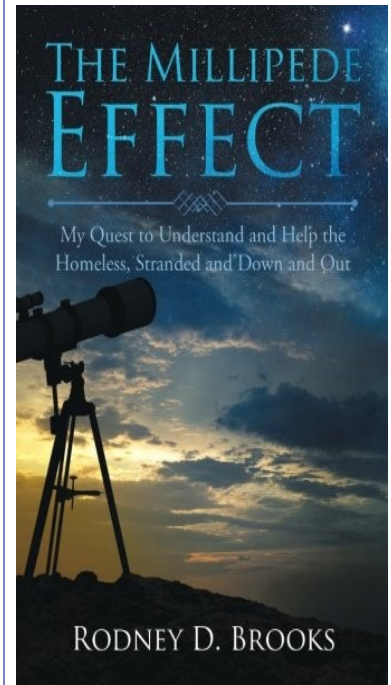
HOMELESS BILL OF RIGHTS FIZZLE IN WASHINGTON

The text of the bill is straightforward — cities within Washington should stop criminalizing homelessness, allowing them to redirect funds spent on enforcement and incarceration towards investments in evidence-based practices for ending homelessness, such as supportive housing. This approach is based on multiple studies showing that the criminalization of homeless-

ness is counterproductive, as well precedents from around the country and the world. Although so called 'quality of life' laws aimed at clearing our streets and plazas of public displays of poverty have recently grown in popularity, they are frequently challenged in court and often struck down as unconstitutional. HB 1591 thus

builds upon current judicial decisions and helps protect Washington municipalities from potential lawsuits.

Bill of Rights



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-
brothersbrooksmissionllc.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 2018 and be exceptional stewards of Love!



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