



**BROTHERS BROOKS**  
VISION 2 MISSION LLC

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**Special points of interest:**

- **California leaders strike deal to give cities and counties hundreds of millions to fight homelessness**
- **Homelessness Facts For Kids**
- **Word on the Street**

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# WE CARE NEWS!!!

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

## **CALIFORNIA LEADERS STRIKE DEAL TO GIVE CITIES AND COUNTIES HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS TO FIGHT HOMELESSNESS**



As California contends with dramatic increases in its homeless population, state lawmakers could vote as early as Monday on a plan to send hundreds of millions of dollars to local governments to help address the problem alongside a series of proposals to cajole cities and counties to allow more housing development.

The deal, which Gov. Gavin Newsom and legislative leaders agreed to Thursday, gives Los Angeles and a dozen of California's other largest cities \$275 million in state grants for homelessness prevention measures.

Counties would receive an additional \$175 million, and \$190 million more would go to regional agencies known as "continuums of care," which coordinate services for homeless residents across the state.

Newsom made lowering the state's rising housing costs one of his top priorities on the campaign trail, and he has singled out resistance to residential development from cities and counties as one of the key reasons the state doesn't have enough homes available.

The agreement takes initial steps in dealing with that concern by giving more state housing dollars to local governments that make it easier for developers to build. The proposal also adds harsh penalties, including fines of up to \$600,000 a month, in the most extreme cases of cities and counties

refusing for years to follow state requirements to accommodate new growth.

"The high cost of housing is chief among the affordability and quality-of-life challenges families face," Newsom said in a joint statement announcing the agreement with Senate President Pro Tem Toni Atkins (D-San Diego) and Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon (D-Lakewood).

In addition to the money for local governments, the region just received funding from Proposition 2, the \$2-billion statewide homeless housing bond that voters approved in November, and will get money from social services and other programs aimed at preventing homelessness.

**By Liam Dillon and Taryn Luna**

## **HOMELESSNESS FACTS FOR KIDS**

Homelessness means people who do not have a place to stay. The word "homelessness" also includes people who sleep in warming centers, homeless shelters, or in abandoned buildings, parking garages, or other places not meant for humans to live in.

Homelessness occurs for many reasons. It may happen when people or households are unable to buy and/or maintain housing they can afford. International human rights law includes the right to housing.

Homeless people

In academic articles and government reports, these people are called "homeless people". You may hear different words to describe homelessness and homeless people. Some of these words apply to people who might not be homeless

CONTINUED ON PG 2



**MID-SOUTH  
FOOD  
BANK**  
FEEDING THE NEED

**Our Mission: To change lives by eliminating hunger in the Mid-South.**

**Our Vision: Hunger to Hope**

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**"One person can make a difference, and everyone should try."**

— John F. Kennedy



## SPOT LIGHT— MID-SOUTH FOOD BANK

Mid-South Food Bank was founded in 1981. A 501(c)(3) charitable organization, we are a member of Feeding America, the national network of food banks. We are a founding member of the Safety Net Collaborative.

Our Partner Agencies: Any 501(c)(3) charitable organization or faith-based equivalent in our service area that feeds hungry people free of charge is eligible to apply to receive food from Mid-South Food Bank. Emergency food providers include

food pantries, soup kitchens and shelters. Other agencies are youth programs, senior programs, residential programs, rehabilitation programs, daycares and schools.

Mid-South Food Bank approached the government shutdown like we would a disaster. We are the FEMA designated agency for food incase of a disaster in our area. While this was not that kind of disaster, it was certainly a situation that was unexpected, devastating and required us to react quickly

and appropriately to help people in need. So, yes we treated it like a disaster.

.Every \$1 can help provide 3 meals to families who struggle to make ends meet.

Mid-South Food Bank invests 96 cents of every dollar raised into our programs that serve hungry children, seniors and families



## Proposed HUD rule would strip transgender protections at homeless shelters

The Department of Housing and Urban Development on Wednesday proposed a new rule that would weaken Obama-era protections for homeless transgender people, allowing federally funded shelters to deny people admission on religious grounds or force transgender women to share bathrooms and sleeping quarters with men. The

proposed rule comes one day after HUD Secretary Ben Carson assured members of Congress the agency had no plans to eliminate the 2012 Equal Access Rule, which barred federal housing discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. The proposal is the latest move by the Trump administration to weaken protections for

transgender Americans, including a Department of Defense ban on transgender troops and a Department of Health and Human Services proposal allowing medical providers to deny treatment to transgender people on religious grounds.. Secretary Carson told congress that he wanted to allow more local jurisdiction on how people are being treated.

By Tracy Jan

## HOMELESSNESS FACTS FOR KIDS—CONTINUED

Sometimes they are based upon stereotypes. For instance, in slang, a vagabond is someone who travels without the money necessary to stay in good hotels. Such a person may or may not have a home somewhere. Sometimes police reports use the word "transient" to describe people from out of town or who are passing through. Many times these words confuse

the issues because someone just passing through might own a mansion somewhere or might not. here are tough questions in sorting out homeless people even when trying to create programs and services to help them. Homeless counts are required by the government agencies that deal with homelessness. In the USA, for instance, the Housing and Urban Development

(HUD) agency requires a homeless "enumeration" count every two years. They classify "homeless" in a careful way and that way is very influential and a lot of other agencies and church groups copy it.

## 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/>

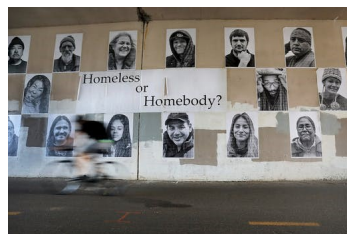
### Word on The Street — Homeless or Homeboy

Photos under Uptown bridge draw attention to the problem of homelessness in Minneapolis

The Minneapolis homeless camp inspired a photographer to get off Instagram and onto the street. The big black-and-white faces appeared under a bridge in Uptown Minneapolis last week.

There's Daniel T., an androgynous person wearing a knit hat, diamond stud earrings and a timid smile. Ken T. has a Twins cap on his head and a gap in his teeth. And 52 more, along with this question in large print: "Homeless or Homebody?" "Homeless or Homebody?" is a pop-up exhibit of 54 portraits, pasted to a wall

under Hennepin Avenue S. in Uptown, showing people from the Hiawatha homeless encampment last year.



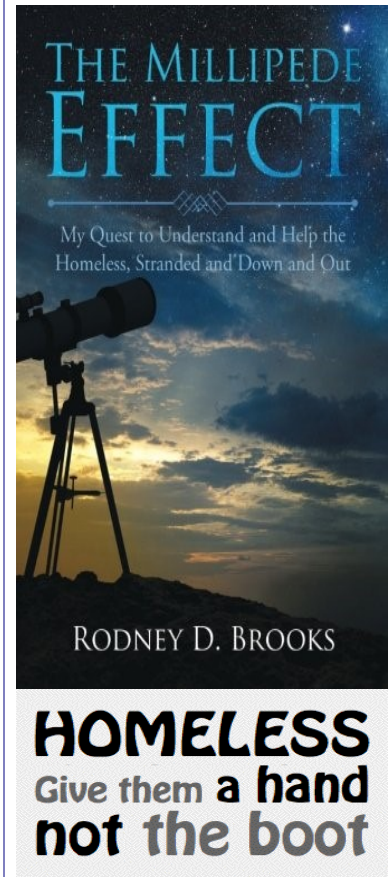
### HOMELESS BILL OF RIGHTS FIZZLE IN WASHINGTON

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



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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 2018 and be exceptional stewards of Love!



**Rodney D. Brooks**  
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