



BROTHERS BROOKS  
VISION 2 MISSION LLC

Volume 9 Issue 1

Newsletter Date  
January 2025



### Special points of interest:

- **Homelessness surged 18% to a new record in 2024 amid a lack of affordable housing across the U.S.**
- **Medical respite for the homeless saves money, lives, study says**
- **Word on the Street**

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Spot Light—  
Family Promise of  
Pulaski County 2
- Housing the homeless  
with heart  
Advocates say Baltimore  
can do better 2
- The Millipede Effect 3
- Word on the Street— 3
- 'I work on the front-  
line with people help-  
ing the homeless in the  
big freeze - this is the  
reality of it' 3
- How You Can Help 4



# WE CARE NEWS!!!

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

## HOMELESSNESS SURGED 18% TO A NEW RECORD IN 2024 AMID A LACK OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING ACROSS THE U.S.

By Moneywatch-CBS News

Homelessness in the U.S. jumped 18.1% this year, hitting a record level, with the dramatic rise driven mostly by a lack of affordable housing as well as devastating natural disasters and a surge of migrants in some regions of the country, federal officials said Friday.

More than 770,000 people were counted as homeless in federally required tallies taken across the country during a single night in January 2024, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development said in its new report. The estimate likely undercounts the number of unhoused people given that it doesn't include people staying with friends or family because they don't have a place of their own.

That jump comes on top of a 12% increase in 2023, which HUD blamed on soaring rents and the end of pandemic assistance. The 2023 increase also was driven by people experi-

encing homelessness for the first time.

That jump comes on top of a 12% increase in 2023, which HUD blamed on soaring rents and the end of pandemic assistance. The 2023 increase also was driven by people experiencing homelessness for the first time.

Vulnerable Americans have been hard hit during the post-pandemic years as many government supports ended, including the eviction moratorium. At the same time, housing costs are surging, causing a record number of renters to be cost-burdened, or paying more than 30% of their income on housing, according to the Harvard Joint Center for Housing Studies.

"More people than ever need help paying rent. More people than ever are becoming homeless for the first time," the National Alliance to End Homelessness, a nonprofit focused on preventing and ending homelessness, wrote on X in a post about the HUD report.

The numbers overall represent 23 of every 10,000 people in the U.S., with Black people being overrepresented among the homeless population.

"No American should face homelessness," HUD Agency head Adrienne Todman said in a statement, adding that the focus should remain on "evidence-based efforts to prevent and end homelessness."

However, because the report is based on data collected almost a year earlier, it may not accurately represent current circumstances, the statement added. For instance, unlawful crossings at the U.S.-Mexico border have declined this year, after migrant apprehensions soared to record highs under President Joe Biden, peaking at 250,000 in December 2024.



## MEDICAL RESPITE FOR THE HOMELESS SAVES MONEY, LIVES, STUDY SAYS

Folks who are experiencing homelessness often use expensive acute health services like emergency department visits at a high rate but often experience poor outcomes. They may end up back on the streets and then cycle back to care when medi-

cal conditions become acute again. Sometimes, because they have no place to go, their hospital stays are longer than they would otherwise be. A Utah Valley University study that focused on care provided by The INN Between in Salt Lake City suggests that medical respite for those experiencing homelessness saves money, improves outcomes and takes some pressure off often-stressed healthcare systems.

Amanda Weller, who has a master of social work degree, and Angelea Panos, an assistant

poverty, the research offers

## Family Promise of Pulaski County

**Mailing Address:**  
**P.O. Box 2718,**  
**Little Rock, AR 72203-2718**  
**For Assistance Contact Us:**  
**casemgr@familypromisepc.org**  
**(501) 372-0733**



## SPOT LIGHT— FAMILY PROMISE OF PULASKI COUNTY

As recently as 2003, there were no homeless shelters in Little Rock equipped to house families as a unit. Recognizing this need, a group of caring individuals discovered the Interfaith Hospitality Network, a partnership of congregations helping families facing homelessness within their communities, and put a plan in motion to establish a local branch of this national effort. Family Promise of Pulaski County opened its doors in 2005 as the Interfaith Hospitality Network of Little Rock, helping homeless families with children achieve independence and providing

area congregations with local mission activities. In 2010, our name changed to Family Promise of Pulaski County, aligning with the organization's nationwide name change and reflecting our network of congregations throughout North Little Rock, Maumelle and Sherwood.

As recently as 2003, there were no homeless shelters in Little Rock equipped to house families as a unit. Recognizing this need, a group of caring individuals discovered the Interfaith Hospitality Network, a partnership of congregations helping families facing homelessness within their

communities, and put a plan in motion to establish a local branch of this national effort. Family Promise of Pulaski County opened its doors in 2005 as the Interfaith Hospitality Network of Little Rock, helping homeless families with children achieve independence and providing area congregations with local mission activities. In 2010, our name changed to Family Promise of Pulaski County, aligning with the organization's nationwide name change and reflecting our network of congregations throughout North Little Rock, Maumelle and Sherwood.

## Housing the homeless with heart Advocates say Baltimore can do

**BALTIMORE** — An 18 million dollar investment in a pair of hotels transformed into housing for the homeless.

You would think Baltimore had taken a major step forward in serving its most vulnerable citizens, but some residents say problems remain in the city's network of shelters.

"Anybody says anything, 'Well, we're going to put you out on the street,' and it's freezing out here," said Zelma Fortune, who says a credit problem

originally landed her on the street. Those who have long tried to provide for the disenfranchised on the streets continue those efforts today even if its just a hot meal for those the city is already supposed to be feeding.

"Children are not being nourished. Mothers are not being nourished," says Homeless Specialist Christina Flowers says the city's institutional approach to serving the homeless has come at a cost, "They're already in shelters and, yes, some of them did come from encampments, but it's

kind of better in the encampment when you can have a decent meal and not be fed like you're a prisoner." Advocates estimate there are nearly seven thousand homeless people in the city and only a fraction of them are receiving services. They argue plans to turn transient housing in the hotels into permanent housing could push some people back out on to the streets. "No. We cannot create a business out of homelessness," said Homeless Advocate Culieka Baysmore, "I don't want to see four or five hundred people that are in these two hotels become

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 MEDICAL RESPITE FOR THE HOMELESS SAVES MONEY, LIVES, STUDY SAYS

professor of social work, looked at outcomes for patients who were referred to The INN Between by the University of Utah Hospital and Huntsman Care Institute for compared to those for whom there was no room at the time. Their needs were roughly comparable, but the difference was whether they could enter the medical respite program. The data was collected as part of an internship funded by the Community Foundation of

Utah. The researchers found that medical respite at The INN Between reduced individuals' hospital utilization 91%. Additionally, it was estimated that the program: Saved local hospitals \$30.5 million since the facility opened in 2015. Saved \$6.4 million in just the last fiscal year. Saved an estimated \$47,110 in medical costs per patient each year.

Research suggests that individuals who are homeless use

emergency services up to 19 times more than housed individuals, the report said. The numbers are especially salient as the Utah Legislature prepares to meet soon, since The INN Between is hoping for a one-time, half-million-dollar funding to help it expand from 63 beds to 80, as well as \$100,000 in ongoing funding. The facility can't expand to that full capacity unless it can update some of the infrastructure.





## 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— Starting Jan. 1, Floridians can sue local governments over homelessness

As rates of homelessness surge nationwide, Florida residents on Jan. 1 gain the ability to sue their local governments for not enforcing a statewide ban on public camping.

House Bill 1365, the camping ban, partially came into effect in October, after Gov. DeSantis signed it into law in March. The law does not affect lawful recreational camping or people who sleep in legally parked and registered cars..

Aiming to crack down on homelessness, the law holds munici-

palities responsible for ensuring that people don't sleep overnight on their streets, in their parks or in any other public place. That provision went into effect this fall. Starting in January, though, failure to do so can result in costly lawsuits for local governments, which could lead to jail time for those experiencing homelessness. Across both the U.S. and Florida, homelessness is on the rise. Since 2023, the number of Americans experiencing homelessness has risen by more than 18%, per a re-

cent report by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. In Florida, that yearly increase was only 2%. More than 31,000 Floridians were homeless last year, a figure that includes both sheltered and unsheltered homeless people. But since 2022, Florida's population of unsheltered homeless people — those who sleep outdoors rather than in, say, a shelter — has ballooned by more than 43%, as hurricanes, and, in some cities,. On any given night, nearly 17,000 Floridians sleep in public. Of those, 30% are over the age of 55.

### 'I WORK ON THE FRONTLINE WITH PEOPLE HELPING THE HOMELESS IN THE BIG FREEZE - THIS IS THE REALITY OF IT'

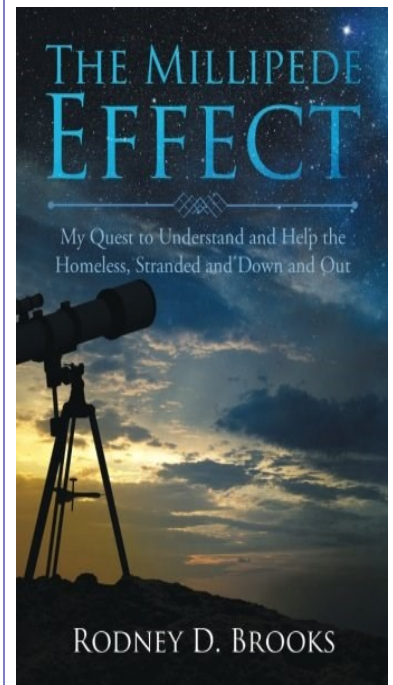
A dedicated volunteer with a Limerick homeless charity has said there has been a steady increase in new faces using the service during the cold snap - but all clients seemed to be in "good spirits".

On Friday, Department of Housing figures showed that for the first time since records began, the number of people who have been accessing emergency accommodation has hit over 15,000. One group doing amazing work to help those in need is Novas. A dedicated charity in Limerick City that operates all year round to help people in

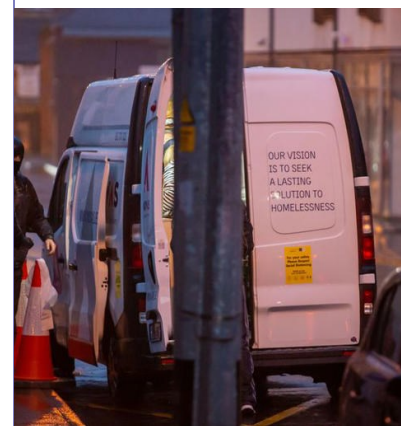
need. The service is run entirely by a volunteer team and receives no state funding and is entirely dependent on donations and fundraising. The Irish Mirror spoke to one of Novas' volunteers Lizzy, who started with the charity in August of last year.. Lizzy begins a night volunteering with Novas' collecting the outreach van at the grounds of Brother Russell "I usually drive because we've got a shortage of drivers," the dedicated volunteer told the Irish Mirror. Lizzy will usually get the van at around 6:15pm in the evening before heading to the Greenhills Hotel to pick up hot meals from their kitchen.

"It's incredible that they donate 365 days a year. It's great. I noticed they seem to try and have a bit extra over Christmas as well. So that was good," Lizzy continued, sharing her experience volunteering with Novas. "Then back across town to the parking spot on William Street for seven o'clock to meet the volunteer.

"I noticed, I didn't personally bring anything now, but I think other volunteers and maybe other staff from Novas, every time I worked over Christmas, there was a box of Roses or Celebrations in the van, and we'd leave that out in the counter for people to take.



**HOMELESS**  
Give them a hand  
not the boot



**BROTHERS BROOKS  
VISION 2 MISSION LLC**

BBV2M LLC  
Marion, MS 39342

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



*A Heritage of Excellence  
in Helping Others!!!*

Brothers Brooks  
Vision 2 Mission LLC

**"WE CARE PROGRAM"**

Helping the Homeless, Stranded and Down & Out



***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 2022 and be exceptional stewards of Love!



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