

MY

Who faces hunger in Arizona?

STORY



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I worked at Honeywell for more than 20 years, and I have a lot of experience with electronics. But, after I was laid off, I haven't been able to find a new job. I'm 56 years old, and I was married for 35 years when my husband left me last December. He closed our bank accounts and left me with nothing.

My sister has lived with me for several years. She had a stroke that left her permanently disabled and unable to talk, so I'm her primary caregiver. I've tried to get certified as a caregiver, so that I can get paid to care for my sister, but I've had no luck so far.

I was driving for Uber whenever I could, which helps to make my car payment. Right now, my phone is turned off though, because I can't afford to pay the bill. Without a phone, I can't work for Uber. We also can't call for help if my sister has a medical emergency, so my church is trying to help me with money for the phone bill.

After my husband left, I tried to enroll in SNAP, but because I included my sister's disability income, I was only eligible for \$4. DES staff helped me with the application and determined that my sister's income didn't need to be included. So now I'm receiving \$192 each month. I am very careful with my SNAP benefit; I use it to buy meat and fresh food. I worry every day that if I can't pay my electric bill, all my food will spoil.

I'm so stressed and don't have a penny to my name. I've come to the Agua Fria Food Bank three times for an emergency food box since my husband left. I've always been the person helping others, not the other way around. I still help out, giving people a free ride or helping folks when their car is broken down on the side of the road. Right now, I'm taking it one day at a time.