

MY

Who faces hunger in Arizona?

STORY

As people get older, they fall through the cracks. My husband passed away in June, and I'm barely getting by. I'm in the "donut hole."*



I've lived at the mobile home park for years and served as the manager. Before that I worked as a senior companion for the City of Phoenix. I know how to help people, and I've always taken care of people in our neighborhood.

Today, I don't know what I am going to do. They say I make too much on Social Security to qualify for SNAP or other benefits, but they don't even consider how much I spend on medications and co-pays. These costs take up most of my social security check.

Years ago, we started the HELP Program in our community, where people who receive food boxes can exchange food. One gal brings fruits and vegetables around to share with all of us. We're a close community, but many people are one month away from living in their car.

One major problem is that most people here don't have their own transportation, so even picking up food boxes is difficult. Also, the cost of living keeps going up, but wages don't. If you get a \$2 raise, your food stamps go down by far more than that. It's a Catch 22, a vicious circle.

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**The Medicare Part D Coverage Gap is a temporary limit on what most Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Plans will cover. When a person is in the coverage gap, they might pay higher costs for their prescriptions.*