

# MY

Who faces hunger in Arizona?

# STORY



**Fernando Ibarra**

Eloy, Arizona

I'm 68 years old and on Social Security. In 1963, when I was 11 years old, our family moved to Eloy, Arizona, from Texas to find work at a ranch. There were not many ranching jobs in Texas at that time. I worked on farms for many years, mainly in the lettuce and onion fields, sometimes driving a loader. As I got older I worked in processing plants around Pinal County.

My children are all grown, and I've been married and divorced three times. In 2010, I became disabled because of years of picking lettuce. My spine is shot, and I am in constant pain. I wear an implanted medical device to help manage the pain. Fortunately, it works!

I have custody of my 15-year-old granddaughter. Each month I receive \$70 in SNAP for both of us. It is not nearly enough, but luckily my rent is only \$227. To help make sure we have enough food each month, I get an emergency food box from CAHRA [*Community Action Human Resources Agency*] and a senior food box [*through the Commodity Supplemental Food Program*]. This gives us more food, especially canned food, to make it through the month.

I am thankful that SNAP helps me feed my granddaughter. When I was living on my own, I was only getting \$15 each month.