

MY

Who faces hunger in Arizona?

STORY

A few years ago, I found myself in a middle of a divorce and needed SNAP to feed my children. My kids were 5 and 9 at the time. My husband, was the sole provider, took care of the finances and assumed all the money was his, so he took it all.

I applied for SNAP to make sure my kids had food to eat and I used it long enough to find a new job and to make sure it was a sustainable job.

SNAP is for everyday people, just like me, who need extra help during difficult times. Sure, I could have asked my family for help, but that would have placed a burden on them. I really didn't need to ask my 80-year-old grandma to support me.

I never used SNAP to purchase snacks, sodas or junk food. I think that is an area that could be better monitored. SNAP should be used to buy healthy food that will fix a real meal. When you buy the ingredients and cook, kids learn where their food comes from.

As soon as I got a job, I reported to DES that I was working. They were very helpful. Since I was working as a substitute teacher they told me to stay on SNAP until I had a sustainable job. I was on SNAP for 8 months, just long enough to get back on my feet.

Today, I manage the Granny's Attic Antique store, in Clifton. I am remarried, and my family is thriving. I've lived here most of my life and wouldn't live anywhere else. It is peaceful and relaxing. We have a home we are buying, we raise animals and we try to grow our own food so that we can be self-sufficient. SNAP helped me when I needed it most.



Jennifer Reid
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