

# MY

*Who faces hunger in Arizona?*

# STORY



I do whatever I can to help my family. I am a 29-year-old mom to a beautiful 4-year-old son. I work the late morning/afternoon-shift at a bakery. It's hard work but it helps me to take care of my son and sometimes my mother, who has been ill. I work every day, but sometimes I don't get a full-time schedule. I make \$10.75 an hour.

I am on top of my SNAP eligibility; when it's time to renew, I make sure I get my application and other documents in on time. I've learned to apply on the computer early in the month, knowing that it takes 3-4 weeks to process.

I go to the DES office at the end of the month to submit my paperwork; it's too hard to submit documents on the computer. Sometimes, it can take two or more days to get through the line at DES, and the line starts as early as 6am. The process is long, and everyone is sitting in a room with kids running around because who can afford a babysitter? I was thinking, maybe DES could remove the vending machines in their waiting rooms. No one has money for pop or candy, and the kids just keep asking. Also, it's really difficult to speak to anyone privately about your application.

I can usually get by on my income and SNAP benefit each month, but I come to St. Mary's Food Bank when I need extra help. My son gets free meals in school, and the Kids Café at St. Mary's definitely helps us through the summer months.



**Jessica Barney**

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