

MY

Who faces hunger in Arizona?

STORY

This is my first time at a food pantry. After ending up homeless in Tucson, I moved back to my hometown of Thatcher two months ago, so that I could find an affordable place to live.

I have a 17-year-old son who is disabled. He doesn't talk, he is legally blind and diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy. I am his only caregiver. In Thatcher I have family that can help me.

I was doing well in Tucson, working at a restaurant. I had to quit my job, because my supervisor said I should quit or be fired. He was upset I had missed work because of my son's health issues.

I have been unemployed for four months. I was told that in order to receive benefits, I needed to apply for unemployment. I did apply and was approved for \$214 a week. My employer is appealing and now I am worried.

My son and I just moved into a trailer and the rent with utilities is \$550. With his disability check of \$675, and my unemployment we can make ends meet. If my employer wins the appeal or if I don't find a job soon, I don't know what we will do.

I will begin receiving \$15 in SNAP in November. That's why I am here at the food pantry, I hope they can help me.



Kimberly Rodriguez
Thatcher, Arizona