

MY

Who faces hunger in Arizona?

STORY



Kimberly Weaver
Rimrock, Arizona

My children are grown, so my husband and I decided to leave Mesa and move to Rimrock two years ago, where we can give back more than we take from the earth. We hope to grow and sell healthy, sustainable food in our community. I'm certified in holistic nutrition and urban farming. I attend online classes at Mesa Community College with a long-term plan to get a bachelor's degree in sustainability from Northern Arizona University.

My husband works full-time, and we earn about \$25,000 a year, which allows us to get along.

My experience with food insecurity is related to my father-in-law. He is in his late 70s and on a fixed income. His health is failing, so it's important that he eat healthy foods. We grow most of the food he eats, and we are blessed with an abundance of farmers in the Verde Valley area who provide produce. In the past three months, he has also gotten two emergency food boxes at the Adventist Community Services Camp Verde Food Bank.

We worry about my father-in-law. Before we moved to Rimrock, he was barely eating. For him, food insecurity was a reality, and maybe it still is. Without our help and the help of his daughter, he would starve. He is no longer able to drive, so although the local grocer is only eight miles away, he can't get there on his own. I don't think my father-in-law's story is unique. There are a lot of people in the area who struggle with food insecurity. I know because I volunteer every Friday and help distribute food.