

MY

Who faces hunger in Arizona?

STORY

I'm 20 years old, and I've been in Tucson all my life. I live with my grandmother, and my brother and sister come to visit on the weekends. I enrolled in SNAP in June and heard about the *Caridad* program through Arizona@Work.*



**Margaret
Walters**

Tucson, Arizona

The program sounded interesting, so I applied. I knew I wanted to work in the food industry but not in fast food, and it has been hard to find a job anywhere else since I graduated from high school.

When I graduate from *Caridad*, I'd like to work in the kitchen of a childcare facility or a senior center. I really like cooking for a larger population in the community, especially seniors and children, and I've learned a lot about portioning and bulk cooking.

My grandmother does not qualify for SNAP, and I receive \$192 in SNAP benefits each month. This would be enough for me, but I also help feed my grandmother and, when my sister and brother come over on weekends, they eat with us too. I'm not computer-savvy, so I applied for SNAP by phone. It was convenient, and it took about 30 days to receive my EBT card.

SNAP helps me take care of my family. Without it, there's no way I could finish the *Caridad* program because I'd need to be working full-time. But I can't find a full-time job without any experience—believe me, I've tried—so I need to finish training at *Caridad* and get certified.

**Caridad Community Kitchen is a 12-week culinary training program at the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona in Tucson. It is a SNAP Employment and Training service provider.*