

# MY

*Who faces hunger in Arizona?*

# STORY

It's just me and my dog, Roscoe P. Parker. We walk to the Desert Mission Food Bank in Sunnyslope once a month. My feet are my only transportation, so it takes us about 25 minutes to get here, but it is well worth the walk.



I moved to Phoenix from Des Moines about 10 years ago. I used to come through as a long-distance truck driver hauling steel and I decided to settle down. I've got a few friends I grew up with who live in the area.

At 66 years old, I am retired. I am an Army veteran who served in the Vietnam War as a combat engineer. I served for seven years and was also stationed in Thailand, Germany, and places in the United States.

I'm not eligible for SNAP, I was told, because I make \$30 too much. I have my social security and a small pension from my truck-driving days, which gives me about \$1200 a month. My rent is \$888, but through the City of Phoenix, I receive a voucher, which helps. I've been on the voucher program for three years.

Each month, I pick up two food boxes: one basic emergency food box and one for senior citizens. Sometimes when I run out of food, I walk over to Mom's Pantry and pick up some donated items. By balancing what I can buy with what I pick up from the food bank and the food pantry, I have enough to eat each month.

You make do. I don't need anything fancy. Me and Roscoe, we get by.

**Paul Scott**  
Phoenix, Arizona