

MY

Who faces hunger in Arizona?

STORY

"Our golden years," right? I'm worried about whether I can pay enough to stay in this trailer.

I was living with my son, but he's a newlywed now. I moved into the El Camino Mobile Home Park with my dear friend, Gloria, who I've known for 30 years. I'm 67, and Gloria's 63. We worked together in public school special education. Before that, I did daycare. Kids have been my whole life.

I get \$800/month in Social Security. It doesn't stretch too far. I have AHCCCS, and I just qualified for \$97/month in food stamps.

Between me and Gloria, we don't make enough money to cover everything, so I'm going back to work at Bingo. It's \$11/hour at the Italian-American Club. I'll work about 10-12 hours a week, so my food stamps will go down.

I don't know if I can even run Bingo though. I have degenerative disc disease. Spinal stenosis. Kidney disease. Fibromyalgia. Sleep apnea. Arthritis. My knees are the worst. Oh, and I've had three strokes.

Gloria has cancer. It's her second time. The nice gal at DES helped me apply to be Gloria's representative, so I could apply for food stamps for her. Because it's too hard for her to go to the DES office and sit for hours.

Gloria needs a lot of protein and vitamins. She's supposed to have fruit—lots of fruit. We can't even afford fruit, it's so expensive. Our pantry is stocked because our families and the people here have been wonderful, but I've got about \$20 in my bank account until my check comes next week.



Sandy Zwicky

Paradise Valley,
Arizona