

OUR

Who faces hunger in Arizona?

STORY

We've had a wonderful life. I've lived in Arizona for 71 years, Terri for 30. We once had a thriving business, making lots of money, but that changed when the economy sank a few years back. We lost everything.

We have been married to one another twice. We have five children of our own, adopted three boys and are now blessed with 24 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. We live on Social Security. Terri gets mine but because she never worked in a job with a taxable income, she has no Social Security of her own.

Today, we live below the poverty line. At the end of the month, if we have \$5 to our name, we're lucky. Most times we don't even have that. But we don't mind being short, we've had a good life, traveled everywhere. But we still dream of figuring a way back into the world, even at our age.

I guess you can say that Terri and I are food insecure. Often, we make a choice between eating or paying the electric bill. We tried applying for SNAP but were denied because our Social Security was \$5 too much. We are so thankful that we can come to United Food Bank because we are able to have food on the table. We come every Friday and for about \$13 we get enough food for the week.* Sometimes we share with the neighbors.

We may apply for SNAP again. If it works, well, good, but, if not, we'll be just fine. We've learned that helping others is what life is really about.



Terri & Paul LaBarre

Mesa, Arizona

**Help Yourself at United Food Bank is a weekly food co-op program. Clients can purchase pre-assembled food bags containing 15-20 pounds of assorted produce and protein for \$20 or less.*

VISIT AZFOODBANKS.ORG

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