

# MY

Who faces hunger in Arizona?

# STORY



**Troy**  
Mesa, Arizona

I moved to Arizona pretty much right out of high school, and I've lived in the Mesa area since then.

I have a bachelor's in Justice Studies from Arizona State University, and I used to have a great job in the mortgage industry. That ended in 2010, when a lot of bad stuff happened in my life, and I suffered such severe anxiety that I basically dropped out of society. I became a recluse for about five years.

I work now, as an independent contractor, doing lighting and visuals for special events. In the busy season, I work 80-90 hours a month. In the summer, I work a lot less. It's a job I like because I can work when I'm able to, without the stress.

I live below the poverty level, and every six months I go to the DES office to renew my SNAP benefits. Twice a month I come to United Food Bank to supplement my SNAP benefits. Their meats and vegetables are a reasonable cost.\* It helps me get through the month.

I don't know what I would do if stricter work requirements to the SNAP program are put in place. I have too many debilitating panic attacks to work a regular schedule.

*\*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.*