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## Family Album, USA

### Episode 18 “[Making a Difference](#)“

#### Act 1

**Ellen** I don't believe it!

**Philip** What's wrong?

**Ellen** Carter Boswell!

**Philip** Who's Carter Boswell?

**Ellen** He's running for the school board. The election's next month.

**Philip** What's wrong with wanting to be on the school board?

**Ellen** Nothing. But he wants to cut the school budget!

**Philip** Maybe it needs cutting.

**Ellen** Cutting the budget is fine, but he wants to do it by cutting all the cultural programs. No music, no dance, no concert, no stage presentations.

**Philip** Why does he want to do that?

**Ellen** He says it's to save the taxpayers' money, and I think he believes that the taxpayers' will vote for him if he spends less on the cultural programs.

**Philip** He's probably right. Lots of people want their taxes used for new books and a new paint job in the schoolrooms.

**Ellen** Maybe some of us would like to pay a little bit more and keep the cultural programs for our kids.

**Philip** Well, I'm not sure, Ellen. I hear it from my patients. Lots of people are tired of their taxes.

**Ellen** I know, but if Boswell wins he'll be an important decision maker on the school board, and he doesn't know anything about our children's education.

**Philip** Who's running against him?

**Ellen** Nobody. That's the problem.

**Philip** Well, it sounds to me like Carter Boswell is going to win this seat on the board.

**Ellen** Oh, not if I can stop him!

**Philip** And how are you going to stop him?

**Ellen** I don't know. Maybe I'll run against him.

**Philip** Well, You've got my vote.

**Ellen** I'm serious, Philip. Why shouldn't I run?

**Robbie** Why shouldn't you run for what, Mom?

**Philip** Your mother is thinking of running for the school board.

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**Robbie** Hey, that's terrific, Mom!

**Richard** Against Carter Boswell? Great!

**Ellen** Well, if I run for office, the voters will have a clear choice. I stand for everything Boswell doesn't.

**Marilyn** I think a lot of people will vote for you against Boswell, Ellen. I'll vote for you.

**Ellen** Will you help me if I do run?

**Marilyn** Absolutely.

**Ellen** The trouble is it takes a little bit of money to run a campaign.

**Philip** I think you can make a difference, Ellen. And in a short campaign you wouldn't need as much money. You know something, Ellen? Why not give the people of Riverdale a clear choice? I'm with you. You can make a difference.

**Maxwell** Come in.

**Ellen** Mr. Maxwell?

**Maxwell** Yes, Charles Maxwell.

**Ellen** My name is Ellen Stewart.

**Maxwell** Hello. Please, sit down. You asked to see me. What would you like to see me about?

**Ellen** I'd like your help.

**Maxwell** Well, I'm editor of the most influential newspaper in Riverdale. Actually, it's the only newspaper. A lot of people would like my help. Do you have a story?

**Ellen** I'm planning to run for the school board.

**Maxwell** Against Carter Boswell?

**Ellen** Yes.

**Maxwell** Well, that is news.

**Ellen** Will you announce that I'm running?

**Maxwell** Sure. But I need some information.

**Ellen** Of course.

**Maxwell** Why will the voters vote for you against Boswell, Mrs. Stewart?

**Ellen** Because I care.

**Maxwell** "Vote for Ellen Stewart. She cares." Not a bad slogan. But what do you care about?

**Ellen** Well, I care about the children of our town. I don't want hem to grow up without cultural programs in our school.

**Maxwell** Do you have a plan?

**Ellen** I want our children to learn more than reading, writing, and arithmetic. I want to keep the after-school programs-the music, the concerts.

**Maxwell** It's not a bad plan. But who's going to pay for all of this?

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**Ellen**            We are. The citizens of Riverdale, of course. I plan to get help from the businessmen and the corporations of Riverdale.

**Maxwell**        That's fair enough. Exactly what do you want from me, Mrs. Stewart?

**Ellen**            You don't know me. I can't expect you to take my side against Boswell. But I do need some publicity so that the people of our town know that I'm running for office and that I care about our children.

**Maxwell**        Fair enough. I certainly can print the news. And you are now making news.