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Family Album, USA

Episode 18 “[Making a Difference](#)”

Act 3

Ellen ...my slogan is "I care". I care about people, not things, Vote for me, Ellen Stewart. I care. How was it?

Richard You were terrific!

Ellen Can I see it?

Richard Sure.

Ellen Hello. My name is Ellen Stewart, and I'm running for the open seat on the school board. My slogan is "I care". What does the word care mean?...I care about people, not things. Vote for me, Ellen Stewart. I care.

Philip I like it, but now what? How can we possibly get it on so Riverdale will see it and hear it?

Richard Leave it to me.

Ellen ...I mean that when I say "I care". I care about people, not things. Vote for me, Ellen Stewart. I care.

Marilyn What happened?

Richard Mom is now on television in every appliance store in Riverdale, except Hamlin's. He's a Boswell voter.

Philip That's a brilliant idea, Richard!

Grandpa You inherited your father's brains.

Philip We got our brains from you, Day.

Richard And guess what? I called channel five. Their TV news is going to cover it. "Housewife campaigns in appliance stores." And I'll bet some magazine will pick up the story, too.

Robbie Mom, you're going to win! I know it!

Philip Hold it, Robbie! Just cool down. I know we're getting some attention now, but in the end the voters will have to decide.

Grandpa You're going to win. Trust me!

Reporter In the hotly contested race for the one seat on the Riverdale School Board, Mrs. Ellen Stewart has taken an early lead.

Robbie She's winning! Mom, you're winning!

Reporter Now returning to other local news...Riverdale High School beat its rival Horace Mann in baseball today...

Ellen It's too soon to know for certain.

Philip You're ahead. That's better than being behind.

Reporter More sports after this.

Ellen It's not over yet. Let's just all calm down, and wait for the final results.

Grandpa Ellen, why don't you go out to the backyard and get some fresh air?

Ellen Thank you, Grandpa. I need some.

Ellen What happened?

Philip You came very close, Ellen.

Grandpa You lost by only a hundred and twenty-one votes.

Ellen I lost.

Richard You tried, Mom.

Marilyn You lost by a very small number of votes.

Robbie Only one hundred and twenty-one votes! I'm sorry, Mom.

Ellen There just wasn't enough time.

Philip Look, you've made a very strong impression on our community. You'll have another chance next election.

Philip Hello. Oh, yes, yes, Mr. Maxwell.

Ellen Hello Mr. Maxwell.

Maxwell How are you? I just called to tell you that you are very impressive. You lost the election, but you won the attention of the residents of Riverdale, of Boswell, and of me.

Ellen Well, thank you, Mr. Maxwell. I appreciate your kind words. I needed that.

Maxwell I hear Boswell wants to appoint you to a special arts committee. I'm sending over a reporter in the morning to interview you.

Ellen You are?

Maxwell I'm going to do an article on "Ellen Stewart-she cares." Maybe we'll all care now. Good-bye.

Ellen Thank you-and good-bye.

Philip What was that about?

Ellen You were right, Philip. I did make a difference in town.

Robbie And in this family.