

2-2-1988

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Recommended Citation

University Marketing and Communications, "02/02/1988 - Rita Nielsen" (1988). 1988. 39.
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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Charleston, Illinois

news

ART TATE, Assistant Director, University Relations
Office: (217) 581-5981 - Home: (217) 348-7553

88-17

February 2, 1988

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COMMUNITY SERVICE

CHARLESTON, IL.--Rita Nielsen, a junior Speech Communications major at Eastern Illinois University, has raised nearly \$800 for the East Coles County United Way.

A Charleston resident, she was invited to be a board member for The United Way at the beginning of the school year.

"I wanted to serve the community in some way, and I'm interested in helping others," she said.

Nielsen is one of some 20 board members for the East Coles County district and was assigned her own section, which is Eastern Illinois University. She immediately began working on the campaign

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by asking various Charleston businesses to donate prizes for a raffle. In Charleston, Mooney Motors, Illinois Consolidated Telephone Co., The Fitness Club, Craig's Video and Domino's Pizza each donated prizes to be raffled off. Gee Dee Printing donated the tickets and Prince Auto Body volunteered its services on the donated car.

Nielsen said her biggest problem was getting the tickets sold. She approached various organizations on Eastern's campus for help with distribution of the tickets. Nielsen said she received excellent support from Eastern's Inter-Fraternity Council and Pan-Hellenic Council. In addition to these two Greek student organizations, she also received help from individual volunteers, such as John Rossini, who sold about 80 tickets by himself.

"She carried the raffle project through, even when it was difficult and time consuming and did an outstanding job," said Dr. Calvin Smith, a Speech Communications professor at Eastern and a United Way Board Member.

Nielsen is continuing as a board member helping others with their campaigns to raise money for United Way.

She is a 1985 graduate of Charleston High School and is the daughter of Leif and Marie Nielsen of Charleston.