

ONE DAY AT A TIME

TO ALL KIDS WHO SURVIVED

FIRST, WE SURVIVED BEING BORN TO MOTHERS WHO TOOK ASPIRIN, ATE BLUE CHEESE DRESSING, TUNA FROM A CAN AND DIDN'T GET TESTED FOR DIABETES. THEN AFTER THAT TRAUMA, WE WERE PUT TO SLEEP ON OUR TUMMIES IN BABY CRIBS COVERED WITH BRIGHT COLORED LEAD-BASED PAINTS. WE HAD NO CHILDPROOF LIDS ON MEDICINE BOTTLES, LOCKS ON DOORS OR CABINETS AND WHEN WE RODE OUR BIKES, WE HAD BASEBALL CAPS NOT HELMETS ON R HEADS. AS INFANTS & CHILDREN, WE WOULD RIDE IN CARS WITH NO SEAT BELTS OR AIR BAGS, NO CAR SEATS OR BOOSTER SEATS. RIDING IN THE BACK OF A PICKUP TRUCK ON A WARM DAY WAS ALWAYS A SPECIAL TREAT. WE DRANK WATER FROM THE GARDEN HOSE AND NOT FROM A BOTTLE. WE SHARED ONE SOFT DRINK WITH 4 FRIENDS FROM ONE BOTTLE AND NO ONE ACTUALLY DIED FROM THIS. WE ATE CUPCAKES, WHITE BREAD, REAL BUTTER AND BACON. WE DRANK KOOL-AID, MADE WITH REAL WHITE SUGAR. AND, WE WEREN'T OVERWEIGHT. **WHY?** BECAUSE WE WERE ALWAYS OUTSIDE, PLAYING...THAT'S WHY! WE WOULD LEAVE HOME IN THE MORNING AND PLAY ALL DAY, AS LONG AS WE WERE BACK WHEN THE STREET LIGHTS CAME ON. NO ONE WAS ABLE TO REACH US ALL DAY...AND WE WERE **O.K.** WE WOULD SPEND HOURS BUILDING OUR GO-CARTS OUT OF SCRAPS AND THEN RIDE DOWN THE HILLS, ONLY TO FIND OUT WE FORGOT THE BRAKES. AFTER RUNNING INTO THE BUSHES A FEW TIMES WE LEARNED TO SOLVE THE BRAKE PROBLEM. REMEMBER? WE HAD FRIENDS AND WE WENT OUTSIDE AND FOUND THEM! WE FELL OUT OF TREES, GOT CUTS, BROKE BONES AND TEETH AND THERE WERE NO LAWSUITS FROM THESE ACCIDENTS. WE WERE GIVEN B B GUNS FOR OUR 10th BIRTHDAYS, MADE UP GAMES WITH STICKS AND TENNIS BALLS. WE RODE BIKES OR WALKED TO A FRIEND'S HOUSE AND KNOCKED ON THE DOOR OR RANG THE BELL OR JUST WALKED IN.

LITTLE LEAGUE HAD TRYOUTS AND NOT EVERYONE MADE THE TEAM. THOSE WHO DIDN'T HAD TO LEARN TO DEAL WITH DISAPPOINTMENT. **IMAGINE THAT!!!** THE IDEA OF A PARENT BAILING US OUT IF WE BROKE THE LAW WAS UNHEARD OF. THEY SIDED WITH THE LAW! WE HAD FREEDOM, FAILURE, SUCCESS AND RESPONSIBILITY, AND WE LEARNED HOW TO DEAL WITH IT ALL. **IF YOU ARE ONE OF THEM CONGRATULATIONS!**